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17 DAYS TO GO BEFORE ELECTION DAY

OPINION METER
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Are you concerned about the financial crisis affecting the United States?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

18 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Election Sprint
Barack Obama extended his front-running campaign into West Virginia, a bastion of white, middle-class voters.

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Peso Weakens
The Philippine peso weakens past 48 to the dollar amid growing fears of a global recession.

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Atalig, Yana suspensions vacated

HOPWOOD DEBATE STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Students at Hopwood Junior High School on Friday debate the White House's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the CNMI's northern waters. *See story on Page 5*

The Commonwealth Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, vacated two attorneys' suspensions from practicing law because the trial court did not follow the rules and procedures governing attorney discipline.

In vacating Antonio M. Atalig's and Reynaldo O. Yana's suspensions, the Supreme Court did not address the merits of the suspensions, but instead remanded the case to the trial court so a proper disciplinary hearing can take place.

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CUC, DCM talk to avoid court action

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Muña

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is trying to avoid filing lawsuit and is currently negotiating with the Guam-based contractor, DCM Group, which had failed to repair the generators at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said they're trying to settle the DCM issue in terms of what services the utility agency received and what was paid to DCM.

Muna said they are essentially figuring out how to settle the DCM contract.

He said CUC did not file a lawsuit against DCM as they want to go

See CUC on Page 4

Mike Pai confirmed as OPA chief

Michael Pai, right, answers a question during Wednesday's hearing at the Legislature on his appointment as public auditor. Rep. Stanley Torres listens.
AGNES E. DONATO

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Michael Pai has secured the approval of both houses of the Legislature for his appointment as the Commonwealth's public auditor. Pai will serve a six-year term.

The Senate voted unanimously to confirm Pai's nomination yesterday. The House of Representatives took the same action on Thursday.

"I feel honored to be given the opportunity to serve as the CNMI public auditor. I appreciate the confidence the

See MIKE on Page 4

CPR study suggests 'Stayin Alive' lives up to name

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—"Stayin' Alive" might be more true to its name than the Bee Gees ever could have guessed: At 103 beats per minute, the old disco song has almost the perfect rhythm to help jump-start a stopped heart.

And in a small but intriguing study from the University of Illinois medical school, doctors and students maintained close to the ideal number of chest compressions doing CPR while listening to the catchy, sung-in-falsetto tune from the 1977 movie "Saturday Night Fever."

The American Heart Association recommends 100 chest compressions per minute, far more than most people realize, study author Dr. David Matlock of the school's Peoria, Ill., campus said Thursday.

And while CPR can triple cardiac arrest survival rates when prop-

See CPR on Page 4

Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holding president Jerry Tan, center, is joined by Red Cross officials and corporation executives during the turnover of a $5,000 donation to the NMI Chapter Club 200 fundraising dinner.

Tan Holdings donates $10,000 to Red Cross

Tan Holding is again one of the premier donors for the American Red Cross NMI Chapter Club 200 fundraising dinner.

The corporation, through its president, Jerry Tan, recently turned over $5,000 in cash and $5,000 worth of in-kind donations from its various groups of companies to the NMI Chapter.

"We are grateful to Jerry Tan and his team for their many years of support for the Red Cross here in the CNMI" said John D. Guerrero, Club 200 co-chair and vice chair of the board of directors. "Our mission of helping those in need is important to their company and we are proud to have their annual support."

"Despite difficult economic times, Tan Holdings places a high priority on supporting local non-profits that are helping to improve life in the Northern Mariana Islands," the company said in a statement. "The company is deeply committed to its employees and social responsibility, and has maintained a philosophy of making continuous improvements, particularly in technology, human resources."

Tan Holdings Corporation is a diverse holding company headquartered in Saipan. They are the largest private employer in the CNMI and led by a highly committed management team headed by Tan.

The company is involved in a wide variety of industries that are vital to the island economies of the Western Pacific and include airlines, amusement, fast food, fishing, ground handling services, hotels, information technology, insurance, logistics, publishing, real estate and travel. ***(ARC)***

Three-year prison term for ex-senator's son

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has imposed a three-year prison sentence on a man who sexually abused a minor.

Govendo gave Pasqual K. Deleon Guerrero credit for two days he had already served in jail.

"The court believes this is a case where the interests of justice and of this society will be best served by imposing a jail term that the court believes will have a deterrent effect on the defendant upon his release, upon any potential offenders, and will serve the retribution that society demands," said Govendo in a written order issued Thursday.

Deleon Guerrero, 23, entered guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Govendo said the message must go out to the community that young men, aged 18 and older, will face severe punishment if they engage in sexual relations with a minor.

"The loose morals that allow this society to turn a blind eye on this practice must be challenged and changed," he said.

The judge said he is adamant in his belief that the best way to implement this change is for parents to take responsibility for educating their young boys and girls as to what is proper sexual conduct and what is not.

Deleon Guerrero was allowed to continue his narcolepsy treatment.

"If the treatments must take place outside of the Department of Corrections then the DOC shall provide transportation," Govendo said.

The judge also allowed the defendant access to any psychiatric and or psychological treatments arranged by his family for the treatment of his suffering from past sexual abuse.

DOC, Govendo said, shall provide a private room for these treatments and Deleon Guerrero shall be given all the time necessary for these treatments.

Govendo acknowledged that the defendant may be paroled after one year of imprisonment if he maintains a record of good behavior.

In 2007, the Attorney General's Office charged the defendant with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

The defendant and counsel signed a plea agreement with the government.

The agreement stated that on or between June 1, 2006, and Aug. 2, 2006, Deleon Guerrero, being 20 then, engaged in sexual contact with a girl who was then 11 years old.

The girl reportedly confessed to her parents about their sexual contact when they confronted her after she and the defendant were seen watching a movie together.

Deleon Guerrero is the son of former senator Ramon Deleon Guerrero.

Lawmakers OK exemption to alcohol ban during elections

The Legislature has passed a bill exempting major tourist establishments from the alcohol ban during elections.

The Senate yesterday voted 8-0, with one abstention, to approve the legislation, which would lift the prohibition on drinking and selling alcohol during elections for the local airports, hotels and golf course resorts. The bill, which cleared the House previously, will become law once signed by the governor.

Under existing law, an alcohol ban is put into effect from 7am to 7pm—while polling places are open—on the day of an election. Anyone caught selling or buying liquor could be fined up to $1,000 or sent to jail for up to 100 days in prison, or both.

The proposed amendment, sponsored by Rep. Rosemond Santos, will lift the alcohol ban for major tourist-oriented places. The bill notes that the alcohol ban is designed to prevent conflicts from escalating between party camps during elections. However, it argues, tourists visiting the Commonwealth during an election should not be restricted from buying alcoholic beverage, as they are not involved with local political affairs.

The bill also says the ban deprives the tourism industry of much needed revenue. "This is an industry that the CNMI has been largely dependent on for its economic growth for the past 30 years. Thus, our tourists' visit within the CNMI should not be hampered in any way," states the legislation. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela is joined by Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez and other anti-cancer advocates during the proclamation signing yesterday for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Tudela proclaims Breast Cancer Awareness Month

With the rate of breast cancer on the rise in the CNMI, Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela proclaimed the start of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in a conference with survivors of the disease and public health officials Friday.

"It is very alarming to know that the rate of breast cancer here in the CNMI has gone up last year," Tudela said, pointing to statistics that show doctors diagnosed 32 women in the islands with it from 1997 to 2007. 25 of those women have since died. The CNMI once had one of the lowest rates of breast cancer, he added.

To prevent breast cancer, the mayor offered advice from the Centers for Disease Control and advocacy groups, urging women to exercise regularly, eat healthily and investigate whether they have a family history of it.

"To all cancer survivors who are still battling with the cancer, think positive that you are not alone out there," he said.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said the health officials have recently signed a contract with a radiology company to read and interpret mammography images. Previously, he said, patients sometimes had to wait weeks for mammogram results but with the new deal, set to begin Dec. 1, prompter readings are assured.

"Early detection is really the cornerstone," he said. "Now we know for sure that someone is always going to be reading these scans."

Breast Cancer Awareness Month will take place from Oct. 17 to Nov. 17. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

New defense budget opens grants to NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas is eligible for federal grants related to the military buildup in the region under a bill President George W. Bush signed on Wednesday.

Under the new law, the CNMI will be able to apply for grants under the Office of Economic Adjustment that will help prepare the islands for increased military use with the relocation of 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

The OEA is the U.S. Department of Defense's main agency for assisting communities affected by military realignment actions. The Defense Department is eyeing to use the Northern Marianas, particularly Tinian, as a military training area on a permanent basis.

The new law will also create an account in the U.S. Treasury to fund improvements in property or facilities on Guam, obtain property support services for these locations, and develop military facilities or training ranges in the CNMI.

Pedro A. Tenorio, the CNMI resident representative to Washington, DC, said the measure is "welcome legislation because it recognizes the strategic importance of our islands, specifically Tinian of which the United States government already leases over two-thirds, and makes our desire to reap some benefit from the base realignment process that much closer to a reality."

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo also hailed the signing of the bill. Bordallo sponsored several provisions included in the final bill that authorize improvements for the Port of Guam and enhance congressional oversight of the Guam military buildup.

"President Bush's signing of this legislation marks a significant step forward for Guam in preparing for the military buildup," she said in a statement.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 authorizes defense related funding and establishes policy for the Department of Defense and certain activities in the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2009. The bill provides a total of $531.4 billion for the Department of Defense and Department of Energy toward national security projects, including a 3.9-percent pay raise for all servicemembers.

Museum assures no artifacts damaged due to flooding

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Robert Hunter, executive director of NMI Museum of History and Culture, assured the public yesterday that no valuable or historic artifacts were damaged by floodwaters that inundated the museum Wednesday afternoon.

He said no valuable and historic items were at any time under any threat of being damaged.

"All of the historic artifacts are displayed at a height well above the flood level," Hunter explained.

Following the rain that flooded the inside floors of the museum, Hunter announced the temporary closure of the area due to minor repairs.

The museum will re-open Tuesday Oct. 21.

Hunter said the museum fielded a number of calls yesterday inquiring about possible damage to the collections.

"As many citizens have donated artifacts to the museum, we want to make sure that they understand that no historic artifacts or objects were harmed by the flooding," he said.

He said that with the exception of the museum staff's time to clean up the water and mud, the museum suffered no monetary damage from the flood.

"None of the exhibit furniture was seriously damaged and the only minor work that will be required is some touch up painting," Hunter explained.

Hunter also clarified that 10 is the lowest average number of visitors per day, with hundreds coming on many days throughout the year.

"Our average number of visitors last year was 37 per day. This figure is based on 'walk-ins,' tours and student field trips, averaged out over the course of all of our open days per year," Hunter explained.

The flooding on Wednesday brought several inches of water and mud into the exhibit area and administrative offices.

The museum staff would be working until Tuesday to remove the water and mud, and re-hang the exhibits over the next several days.

They are also rescheduling all student visits, and presentation activities during this period.

During the flooding, four visitors got stuck inside for about two hours before the heavy rains stopped.

Students from Northern Marianas Colleges were about to enter the premises when they were informed that their trip is cancelled.

Robert Hunter, executive director of NMI Museum of History and Culture, uses a vacuum cleaner at the main entrance floor of the facility following last Wednesday's downpour that flooded the area.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT KRISTI EATON
Espen Ronneberg, Climate Change adviser for the Secretariate of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, speaks to a group of journalists from Pacific nations in Apia, Samoa.

Fundraising tribute to Sr. Remedios today

A special fundraising walk-athon is being held today as a tribute to the late Sr. Remedios Castro, who passed away a year ago.

Walking enthusiasts will start walking at 4pm from the Minatchom Atdao Civic Center in Susupe up to the Microl intersection in San Jose and back.

Sr. Martha Rumarui, principal of Sister Remedios School, said it would take the walkers only about an hour for this fundraising activity.

"This is for the benefit of the school. It will be the first death anniversary of Sister Remedios," said Rumarui.

Donations from each participant will be $10 for adults and $5 for children.

Rumarui said free t-shirts would be given away to those who donate $25 while those who donate $50 will be entitled to raffle tickets.

"This is not an ordinary walk-athon where participants will compete with each other," she explained.

This is the first time the school will hold this kind of activity. She said they are hoping to make it an annual event.

Interested donors and runners are welcome to join the fundraising and enjoy the fun and get to know more about Sr. Remedios. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

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Parade of cultures to open GCA convention

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Students of Grace Christian Academy will parade around their school on Monday, Oct. 20, to signal the start of a weeklong activity in connection with the Mission Convention.

GCA principal Faith Dela Rosa said the Parade of Cultures would begin at 8am on the school ground where the students would assemble. They would then march outside and pass through the Capital Road and back to the campus.

"The parade is just the start of several activities we lined up for the week," said Dela Rosa.

She said they have invited guests to witness the occasion and inspire the students.

GCA held its Second Annual Career Day on Oct. 10 with the theme "Preparing For the Future."

Dela Rosa commended the organizing committee headed by GCA counselor Connie Chandler for a successful occasion.

Chandler said the event gave an opportunity for the students to plan for their future.

She said a variety of guest speakers were invited to share their experiences with the students, especially among those graduating this school year.

"We make sure that we have speakers in different fields," Chandler said.

Among them were Calvo's Insurance general manager Eli Buenaventura, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski, Senate President Pete Reyes and Robert Byrd Scholarship Federal Program officer Tim Thornburg.

The list also included officials from the Northern Marianas College, International Business and Professional College, University of Guam ROTC Program, United States Marine Corps, Saipan SHEFA and Chamindade University.

Special visitors came from American Memorial Park Rangers, MCV Broadband, Department of Public Safety and PTI.

GCA has a total student population of 90 from ninth to 12th grade.

"This is the most important time for the senior students to know and understand what the world is all about because after graduation they don't know what to do," Chandler stressed.

She said the occasion was an opportunity for the guests to motivate the students so they would start thinking about their future.

"We also included the freshmen because we want them to start planning for their future early on in their studies," she said.

Dela Rosa said the occasion was successful because the students were being made aware of a lot of opportunities ahead of them after high school such as scholarship grants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PTI DONATION

PTI contributes $1,000 to the 13th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic, which will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Shown from left are Ed Manglona, PTI Marketing Coordinator; Nick Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager; and Kathryn Barry, board member, Make-A-Wish Foundation.

ATALIG

From Page 1

In 2007, Atalig and Yana received $1.3 million in attorney fees for their work on the Angel Malite probate case. The Supreme Court instructed that the trial court evaluate the propriety of the fees.

As a result, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered the two lawyers to return the money and provide the court with a detailed billing statement so it could evaluate the reasonableness of the fee award.

Atalig and Yana provided a billing statement, but Govendo deemed it to be both vague and insufficient. Additionally, the attorneys failed to return the attorney fees, claiming the money had already been spent. As a result, Govendo found Atalig and Yana in contempt of court, suspended them from practicing law until they returned the attorney fees, and threw them both in jail.

On appeal, the Supreme Court vacated the suspensions. The Supreme Court determined that before suspending attorneys, the trial court must comply with the disciplinary rules governing attorney discipline. However, the Supreme Court stated that "although the trial court demonstrated its familiarity with the disciplinary rules, it only applied them selectively."

The Supreme Court noted that Govendo failed to follow the disciplinary rules in that he did not properly notify the presiding judge about the attorneys' conduct, issue a formal complaint, allow the attorneys to issue a response to the complaint, or hold a closed-door hearing.

In its decision, the Supreme Court justices stated that they do not wish to see different trial judges implementing different disciplinary procedures depending on the case. The High Court further stated that if "trial judges were to discipline attorneys without regard to the guidelines set forth in the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules and Procedure, the consequences might cripple the judiciary's ability to perform its constitutional duties."

It was not immediately learned if Atalig and Yana have already been released from the Department of Corrections where they have been incarcerated since March 25 due to the contempt-of-court charges. On Aug. 15 this year, Govendo allowed Yana and Atalig to leave the prison complex for a few days each week to prepare a detailed account of their work with the Malite estate probate.

The Supreme Court opinion was issued by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Justice Alexandro C. Castro, and Justice John A. Manglona. ***(PR, Saipan Tribune files)***

CUC

From Page 1

through a negotiation process.

"We're sitting down with them and saying, 'Look, it is in your contract, the deliverables weren't met. From our side there were some services rendered and we did pay you.' So, it is about making sure that when we terminated the contract, there are no more claims either from DCM to CUC or CUC to DCM," Muña said.

He said the Office of the Attorney General is handling the negotiation.

CUC terminated its $5.1 million deal with DCM in July 2008 after the company reportedly failed to repair the generators by a set deadline, as required by the contract.

CUC claimed it has paid DCM over $400,000 already under the failed contract.

The termination of the contract had prompted CUC to issue an emergency request for proposals for overhaul work on power engines 5 and 7 at Power Plant 1.

CUC has also been working again with the Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc. to rehabilitate its power engines at Power Plant 2.

CUC revisited the contract with CISCO and right now the utility agency has been working with them to get the promised eight megawatts from Power Plant 2, as per the initial contract.

CUC hired CISCO in 2006 to fix the six engines at Power Plant 2. The utility agency signed the contract with CUC without soliciting bids or proposals from any other company. In July 2008, it was reported that CISCO's work was suspended as only one engine had been made operational.

MIKE

From Page 1

Legislature has in my qualifications and abilities," Pai said in a telephone interview yesterday.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation and the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on Wednesday, Pai vowed to keep the Office of the Public Auditor "independent, factual, and fair to all concerned."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed Pai on July 22, 2008, to replace Michael Sablan, who resigned while serving his second term as public auditor.

Pai has been a certified public accountant for more than 20 years. He attended the University of Hawaii, where he completed degrees in engineering and business administration.

Before putting up his own accounting firm in 1986, Pai worked for a number of corporations and an accounting firm, including the Hawaiian Telephone Company, Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., and Ernst & Young.

He is currently a shareholder of Universal Air Supply, an air-conditioning and refrigeration wholesale and retail company in Guam; Plexus International, a training and quality management systems firm in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc, a local boat cruise tours company.

In addition, he serves as treasurer of Chong's Corporation, which offers air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment and services. The company, Pai admitted, conducts "a significant amount of business with the government."

Pai is also an active in community activities, serving as member of the CNMI Board of Accountancy, the NMI Judiciary Historical Society, and the Pet Assistance & Welfare Services group. Pai was also a president and a board member of the Rotary Club of Saipan, and was a board member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

CPR

From Page 1

erly performed, many people hesitate to do it because they're not sure about keeping the proper rhythm, Matlock said.

He found that "Stayin' Alive," which has a way of getting stuck in your head anyway, can help with that.

His study involved 15 students and doctors and had two parts. First they did CPR on mannequins while listening to the song on iPods. They were asked to time chest compressions with the song's beat.

Five weeks later, they did the same drill without the music but were told to think of the song while doing compressions.

The average number of compressions the first time was 109 per minute; the second time it was 113. That's more than recommended, but Matlock said that when it comes to trying to revive a stopped heart, a few extra compressions per minute is better than too few.

"It drove them and motivated them to keep up the rate, which is the most important thing," he said.

The study showed the song helped people who already know how to do CPR, and the results were promising enough to warrant larger, more definitive studies with real patients or untrained people, Matlock said.

He plans to present his findings at an American College of Emergency Physicians meeting in Chicago this month.

It turns out the American Heart Association has been using the song as a training tip for CPR instructors for about two years. They learned of it from a physician "who sort of hit upon this as a training tool," said association spokesman Dr. Vinay Nadkarni of the University of Pennsylvania.

He said he was not aware of any previous studies that tested the song.

But Nadkarni said he has seen "Stayin' Alive" work wonders in classes where students were having trouble keeping the right beat while practicing on mannequins. When he turned on the song, "all of a sudden, within just a few seconds, they get it right on the dot."

"I don't know how the Bee Gees knew this," Nadkarni said. "They probably didn't. But they just hit upon this natural rhythm that was very catchy, very popular, that helps us do the right thing."

Dr. Matthew Gilbert, a 28-year-old medical resident, was among participants in the University of Illinois study this past spring. Since then, he said, he has revived real patients by keeping the song in his head while doing CPR.

Gilbert said he was surprised the song worked as well as it did.

"I was a little worried because I've been told that I have a complete lack of rhythm," he said. Also, Gilbert said he's not really a disco fan.

He does happen to like a certain Queen song with a similar beat.

"I heard a rumor that 'Another One Bites the Dust' works also, but it didn't seem quite as appropriate," Gilbert said.

At Hopwood, marine monument plan sparks debate

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Eighth graders at Hopwood Junior High School held a spirited debate Friday on the controversial White House proposal to establish a national marine monument in the CNMI's northern waters.

Supporters of the monument—which has become one of the most hotly contested local issues of the day—have long said the 110,000 square miles of ocean encompassing the islands of Maug, Ascuncion and Uracus are a biodiversity hotspot, home to scores of unique species in need of the heightened federal protection the plan could provide. Opponents, however, have said it would trample on the CNMI's autonomy and that local environmental rules can protect the waters at issue.

On Friday, Hopwood's students had a chance to put the debate into their own words, an exercise teacher Kimberly Vaillancourt said aims to build their critical thinking and analytical skills.

Backing the monument on economic grounds was Christiane Baquiano, who pointed to a recent study on the projected amount of tourism dollars and federal revenue it could draw to the CNMI.

"It's no secret that the CNMI is in dire economic straits," she said, adding that the monument could create new jobs.

Charlene Lizardo, also speaking in favor of the proposal, said that current federal laws give the White House the authority it needs to establish the monument and that contrary to some claims, local fishermen have nothing to fear when it comes to the restrictions the plan would impose.

"It's not the local fishermen that will be denied, but foreign encroachment," she said, noting that the northern islands are too far for small fishing boats to reach but well within reach of foreign vessels. The monument, she added, could take "the CNMI a step closer to a new era of ocean stewardship."

The students speaking in opposition to the monument countered by saying any prospective benefits from the proposal are undefined while its potential costs are easily calculated. On the economic study cited by environmentalists in favor of the plan, Allene Evallar said nothing is certain.

"There is no guarantee that any of these things will happen," she said, later noting that any boost in tourism to the northern islands as a result of the monument could also increase pollution from human activity there.

Kevin Guinto pointed to problems he sees with the proposal, suggesting that it represents an intrusion by federal authorities on the CNMI's rights to self-government, similar to the pending takeover of local immigration rules.

Later in the day, students delivered a packet of hand-written comments giving their opinions on the issue to staff at American Memorial Park. The comments are now bound for the White House.

Federal authorities will hold a public forum on the monument proposal at the Fiesta Resort on Saipan Monday, Oct. 20, beginning at 5:30pm.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Federal authorities will hold a public forum on the proposal at the Fiesta Resort and Spa on Monday, Oct. 20, at 5:30pm.

Labor sanctions construction firm for the late filing of docs

The Department of Labor has sanctioned a construction company for failing to produce documents on time in relation to its hiring of seven alien workers.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody ordered Misamis Construction (Saipan) Ltd. to pay a $300 fine to the CNMI Treasury for its failure to timely submit to Labor three documents—list of citizen and resident workers, certification regarding posting of Job Vacancy Announcements, and payroll summary.

Cody granted the seven workers permission to transfer to Misamis Construction, subject to Labor's subsequent approval of the application.

He directed Misamis Construction to file an application for transfer of each seven workers to a new job under a one-year contract.

'If Misamis fails to file complete applications in a timely manner, the permission to transfer may be automatically revoked and petitioners shall then be required to report to the Hearing Office on or before the 30th day after the issuance of this order to make arrangements for repatriation or further transfer," said Cody in the order issued Tuesday.

According to Labor records, the workers—Rosve A. Naluz, James Dagupan, Lucio O. Yasona, Martin R. Ventura, Warlito Inez, Ernesto D. Medina, and Loreto P. Niedo—registered with Labor Division of Employment Services, then submitted Employer Intent Forms signed by Misamis Construction.

Employment Services lodged an objection to each petition, asserting that Misamis was not making good faith efforts to meet its obligation to have citizens and permanent resident workers comprising at least 20 percent of its full-time workforce.

Cody and the same parties in the case had previously tackled the "20 percent" issue in a hearing in August 2008, which resulted in the administrative order issued on Aug. 12, 2008.

The Aug. 12, 2008, order imposed a number of continuing obligations on Misamis so it could meet the 20 percent requirement for resident workers.

Misamis was ordered to hire and employ a minimum of three citizens or permanent resident workers (trainees or experienced workers) each month, beginning September 2008, and continuing each month for a period of one year.

Misamis was also ordered to provide Employment Services with a list of all U.S. citizens and permanent resident workers hired by the company each month.

Each list was to be delivered to Employment Services on or before the 7th day of the month following the applicable month. Thus, the September list was due on Oct. 7, 2008. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Send-off rites today for Guam soldiers

A send-off ceremony for the Guam Army Reserves' 368th Military Police Company, Second Platoon, will take place today Oct. 18, at 10am at their Barrigada compound across the Admiral Nimitz Golf Course, Mangilao.

Over 30 soldiers are scheduled to depart next week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 9th Regional Readiness Command mission is to provide combat ready forces that meet the peacetime and wartime requirements of the warfighting CINC, and to provide command and control of USAR Forces in the USARPAC Area of Responsibility. During peacetime, 9th RSC falls under the command of U.S. Army Pacific.

In 1961, IX Corps became a separate headquarters of U.S. Army Pacific. The 9th Regional Support Command in Hawaii was designated HQ IX Corps (Augmentation) and was organized on Jan. 16, 1962. At that time it was an integral part of the active Army's IX Corps, and participated in command post exercises with the corps for its annual training.

On April 27, 1987, the organization in Hawaii was redesignated HQ IX Corps (Reinforcement). Effective Dec. 1, 1991, this organization was re-designated again as HQ IX Corps (Reinforcement/9th ARCOM). On Oct. 1, 1995, the command in Hawaii was redesignated HQ 9th U.S. Army Reserve Command, following the inactivation of IX Corps at Camp Zama, Japan in September 1995. When IX Corps was deactivated, the 9th Theater Army Area Command was activated in its place in Japan.

In late 2003 all Regional Support Commands were re-designated to Regional Readiness Commands. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A debatable strategy

John McCain faced a hard choice Wednesday evening: He could conduct his final debate with Barack Obama on the high plane of principle and risk losing the election, or he could engage in personal acrimony and risk destroying his argument that, for him, it is country first. He chose to attack.

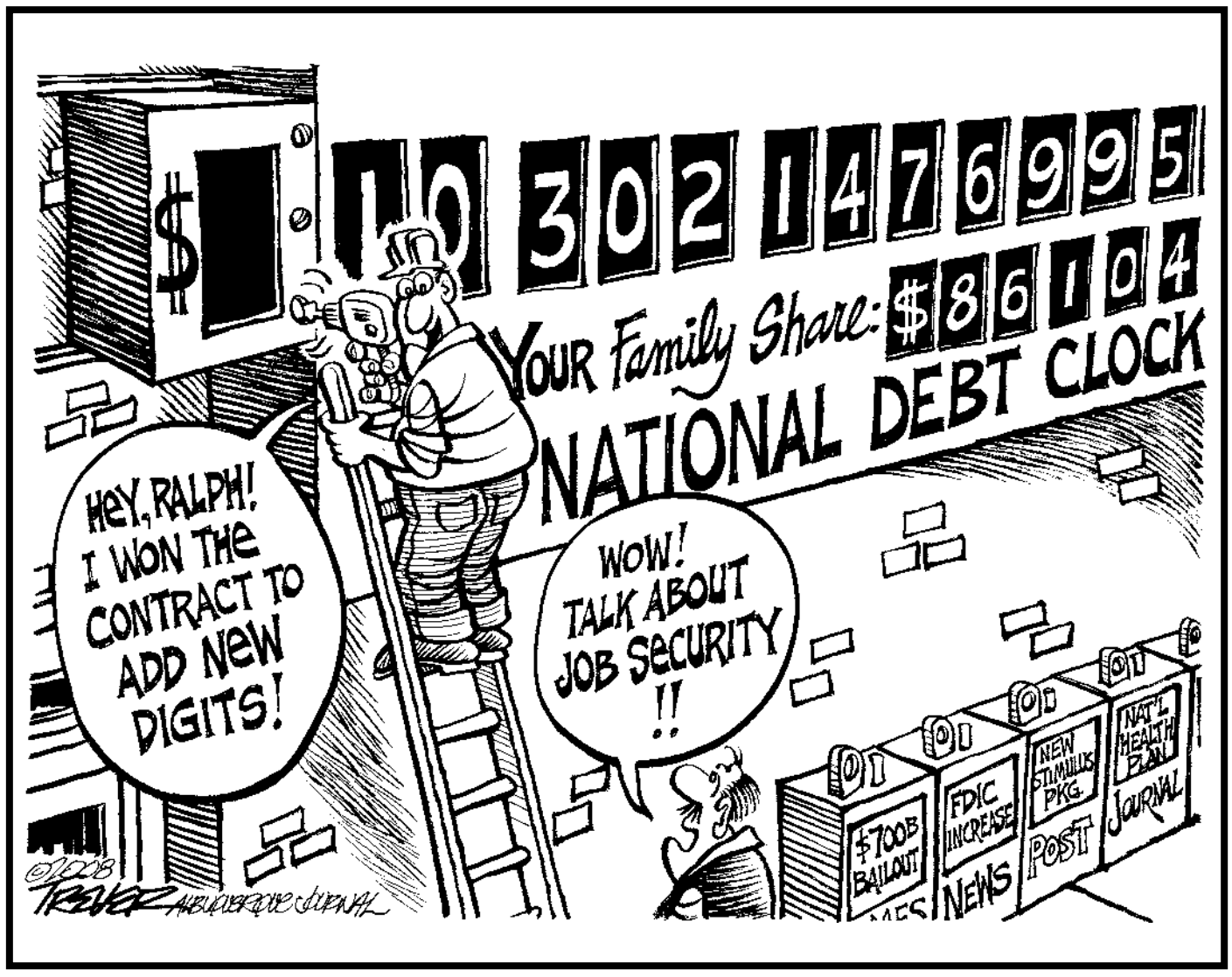
For a few minutes, it seemed that the debate might elicit the better qualities of both men. They welcomed one another, and McCain addressed Obama directly and respectfully, as he had once refused to do. That was his civility high point of the evening, which too often turned on scripted retorts. "Senator Obama," McCain said in one, "I am not President Bush. If you wanted to run against President Bush, you should have run four years ago." Not exactly Lloyd Bentsen lying in wait for Dan Quayle, but delivered in the same spirit.

Then came the big blow: McCain, who has allowed surrogates to thrash Obama over his relationship with William Ayers, an ex-Weatherman who once engaged in bombing, now took up the cudgel himself. "I don't care about an old washed-up terrorist," he said. "But as Senator Clinton said in her debates with you, we need to know the full extent of that relationship." McCain charged that ACORN, a community organizing group that Obama has supported and that has been accused of padding voter registration rolls, is "maybe destroying the fabric of democracy." And then, returning to Ayers, McCain alleged that Obama launched his political career in the former Weatherman's living room, an assertion for which there is no recorded basis.

Throughout, Obama adopted a look of incredulity, but even his reserve was cracked by McCain's pivot out of the politics of personal attack. Immediately after demanding that Obama provide a full accounting of his relationships with ACORN and Ayers, McCain asserted: "My campaign is about getting this economy back on track, about creating jobs, about a brighter future for America." That disjointed segue was too much for Obama, who laughed.

Wednesday's event produced plenty of substance. These two candidates have different tax plans and different health-care plans. They approach trade differently. Obama believes Roe vs. Wade was properly decided; McCain does not. They are, fundamentally, men of different generations and ideologies, and they don't like each other much. Indeed, McCain may have revealed himself most clearly in one verbal slip-up late in the event. He referred to Obama, whom he called "that one" in the last debate, as "Senator Government." This may have been McCain's last chance to convince the American people that they must choose between a patriot and a bureaucrat; he delivered an argument that may hearten his supporters but that offers little to the wavering voter other than evidence that he will risk what he treasures most in order to win.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



The definition of Yankee know-how

By JOSHUA KENDALL
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Kendall is the author of The Man Who Made Lists: Love, Death, Madness and the Creation of Roget's Thesaurus. *He is working on a biography of Noah Webster.*

Were it not for Noah Webster Jr., the farm boy from West Hartford, Conn., who would have been 250 on Thursday, Americans might all be reading their newspapers from back to front today.

As the War for Independence was winding down, the linguistic future of the United States was up for grabs. After all, the English of King George III had suddenly become the tongue of the oppressor. And roughly one-quarter of the new nation's 3 million citizens were not native English speakers. Some Americans sought to replace English with German, then spoken by nearly 10 percent of the population, and others advocated more radical options, including right-to-left reading in Hebrew.

In 1783, Webster, then a recent Yale graduate eking out a living as a schoolteacher, put an immediate end to the charged debate. His rhetorical tool was a tiny textbook, just 6 1/4 inches long and 3 1/2 inches wide, which made the case for an American brand of English.

In his so-called blue-backed speller, Webster issued a linguistic declaration of independence: "This country must, in some future time, be as distinguished by the superiority of her literary improvements as she is already by the liberality of her civil and ecclesiastical constitutions." His book was the first published in the new United States, and Webster traveled to state capitals across the country to lobby for the nation's first copyright laws. He also invented the modern book tour and publicized his work with blurbs from eminent authorities (many of which he wrote himself).

By the end of the 19th century, nearly 100 million copies of Webster's Elementary Spelling Book would be sold. In contrast to most European countries, where regional dialects hold considerable sway, the United States has never been divided by language. Even on the eve of the Civil War, leading secessionist Jefferson Davis acknowledged that "we have a unity of language which no other people possess, and we owe this unity above all to Noah Webster's Yankee spelling book."

Yet the speller marked just the beginning of Webster's six-decade literary career. His treatise, "Sketches of American Policy," published in 1785, formulated several of the key principles that later worked their way into the Constitution, such as the need for "a supreme power at the head of the union." At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Webster emerged as George Washington's personal policy wonk, at whose hotel room door the general would come knocking. In 1793, Webster became editor of New York City's first daily newspaper, the American Minerva, the Federalist Party organ that helped Washington keep the United States out of another war with Britain.

While Webster would dabble in other fields, including epidemiology, statistics and philosophy, his crowning achievement would be his dictionary, to which he devoted the second half of his life. In 1806, he published his Compendious Dictionary of the American Language, a spelling dictionary in which he first made many of the changes for which he has become famous, such as axing the "u" in "colour" and the "k" in "musick."

It was 22 more years before he unveiled An American Dictionary of the English Language -- though he took time during breaks from composing definitions to found Amherst College and serve as a representative in the Massachusetts General Court. This was his magnum opus, containing about 70,000 words, nearly twice as many as in Samuel Johnson's 1755 masterpiece. (One word, "demoralize," was of Webster's own coinage.)

While Johnson had the soul of a poet, Webster had a scientific sensibility. He officially introduced into the English language all the new concepts of the Enlightenment. What's more, he brought remarkable analytic power to lexicography. As James Murray, the first editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, would later write, Webster "was a born definer of words." Unlike the speller, the dictionary didn't bring in much money during his lifetime, but it immediately received praise from around the world. By the early 1830s, even British courts were citing Webster's as the dictionary of record.

Webster's flaming red hair and remarkably erect bearing made him a striking figure. He wore long-tailed coats and frilled shirts long after they went out of style. Although devoted to his seven children, Webster was largely a loner and spent most of his days in his study. Of Webster's major character flaw, most of his contemporaries concurred that it was "unbounded vanity." Webster was always talking himself up. When the famous physician Benjamin Rush once greeted him with the salutation, "I congratulate you on your arrival in Philadelphia," Webster is reported to have shot back, "You may, if you please, sir, congratulate Philadelphia upon the occasion!"

But Webster's quirky personality was well suited to his chosen vocation, lexicography. Without his legendary grandiosity, he never would have taken it upon himself to unite Americans with his words.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An energy fix written in the stars

By BEN BOVA
Special to The Washington Post

Bova, president emeritus of the National Space Society, is the author of nearly 120 nonfiction books and futuristic novels, including Powersat, a novel about building the first solar power satellite.

You're heading into some rough times as you move into the White House, Mr. Future President, what with the economy in recession, financial markets in turmoil, global warming, terrorism, war and soaring energy prices. But I can offer you a tip for dealing with that last issue, at least: Look to the stars.

That's right. You can use the powerful technology we've forged over a half-century of space exploration to solve one major down-to-Earth problem—and become the most popular president since John F. Kennedy in the process.

Right now, the United States is shelling out about $700 billion a year for foreign oil. With world demand for energy increasing, gas prices will head toward $10 per gallon during your administration unless you make some meaningful changes. That's where space technology can help—and create new jobs, even whole new industries.

You'll have to make some hard choices on energy. Nuclear power has radioactive wastes. Hydrogen fuels burn cleanly, but hydrogen is expensive to produce and hard to distribute by pipeline. Most people don't want huge, noisy wind turbines in their back yards.

Solar energy is a favorite of environmentalists, but it works only when the sun is shining. But that's the trick. There (ital) is (end ital) a place where the sun never sets, and a way to use solar energy for power generation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: Put the solar cells in space, in high orbits where they'd be in sunshine all the time.

You do it with the solar power satellite (SPS), a concept invented by Peter Glaser in 1968. The idea is simple: You build large assemblages of solar cells in space, where they convert sunlight into electricity and beam it to receiving stations on the ground.

The solar power satellite is the ultimate clean energy source. It doesn't burn an ounce of fuel. And a single SPS could deliver five to 10 gigawatts of energy to the ground continually. Consider that the total electrical-generation capacity of the entire state of California is 4.4 gigawatts.

Conservative estimates have shown that an SPS could deliver electricity at a cost to the consumer of eight to 10 cents per kilowatt hour. That's about the same as costs associated with conventional power generation stations. And operating costs would drop as more orbital platforms are constructed and the price of components, such as solar voltaic cells, is reduced. Solar power satellites could lower the average taxpayer's electric bills while providing vastly more electricity.

They would be big—a mile or more across. Building them in space would be challenging but not insurmountable: We already know how to construct the International Space Station, which is about the size of a football field. And the SPS doesn't require any new inventions. We have the technology at hand.

Basically, an SPS needs solar voltaic cells to convert sunlight into electricity and microwave transmitters to beam the energy to the ground. We've been using solar cells to power spacecraft since the 1950s. Solar cells are in our pocket calculators, wristwatches and other everyday gadgetry. You can buy them over the Internet. Microwave transmitters are also a well-developed technology. There's one in almost every kitchen in the nation, in the heart of our microwave ovens.

Some people worry about beaming gigawatts of microwave energy to the ground. But the microwave beams would be spread over a wide area, so they wouldn't be intense enough to harm anyone. Birds could fly through the thinly spread beams without harm. Nevertheless, it would be best for the receiving stations to be set up in unpopulated areas: say, the deserts of the American Southwest.

It's ironic, but when solar power satellites become commonplace, the desert wastes of the Sahara and the Middle East could become important energy centers even after the last drop of oil has been pumped out of them. SPS receiving stations could also be built on platforms at sea; Japan has already looked into that possibility.

Solar power satellites won't be cheap. Constructing one would cost about as much as building a nuclear power plant, around $1 billion. That money, though, needn't come from the taxpayers; it could be raised by the private capital market. Oil companies invest that kind of money every year in exploring for new oil fields. But the risk involved in building an SPS, as with any space operation, is considerable, and it could be many years or even decades before an investment begins to pay off. So how can we get private investors to put their money into solar power satellites?

This nation tackled a similar situation about a century ago with big hydroelectric dams, then on the cutting edge of technology, and risky endeavors that required hefty funding. The Hoover Dam, the Grand Coulee Dam and others were built with private investment—backed by long-term, low-interest loans guaranteed by the U.S. government. They changed the face of the American West, providing irrigation water and electrical power that stimulated enormous economic growth. Phoenix and Las Vegas wouldn't be on the map except for those dams.

Solar power satellites could be funded through the same sort of government-backed loans. Washington has made such loan guarantees in the past to help troubled corporations such as Chrysler and Lockheed. Why not use the same technique to encourage private investment in solar power satellites? If we can bail out Wall Street, why not spend a fraction of that money to light up Main Street?

What's more, a vigorous SPS program would provide a viable market for private companies, such as SpaceX and Virgin Galactic, that are developing rocket launchers. Like most new industries, these companies are caught in a conundrum: They need a market that offers a payoff, but no market will materialize until they can prove that their product works. The fledgling aircraft industry faced this dilemma in the 1920s. The federal government helped provide a market by giving it contracts to deliver mail by air, which eventually led to today's commercial airline industry.

A vigorous SPS program could provide the market that the newborn private space-launch industry needs. And remember, a rocket launcher that can put people and payloads into orbit profitably can also fly people and cargo across the Earth at hypersonic speed. Anywhere on Earth can be less than an hour's flight away. That's a market worth trillions of dollars a year.

It will take foresight and leadership to start a solar power satellite program. That's why, Mr. Future President, I believe that you should make it NASA's primary goal to build and operate a demonstration model SPS, sized to deliver a reasonably impressive amount of electrical power—say, 10 to 100 megawatts—before the end of your second term. Such a demonstration would prove that full-scale solar power satellites are achievable. With federal loan guarantees, private financing could then take over and build satellites that would deliver the gigawatts we need to lower our imports of foreign oil and begin to move away from fossil fuels.

Americans are a frontier people at heart. We have a frontier that begins a scant hundred miles overhead and contains more riches of energy and raw materials than the entire Earth can provide. Mr. Future President, if we use these resources wisely, we can assure prosperity and peace for the world—and you have the opportunity to write your name in capital letters across the skies.

'Muslim' shouldn't be a slur

By CONSTANCE L. RICE
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Excuse me, but when did the words "Muslim" and "Arab" become acceptable epithets?

I'm not a Muslim, and perhaps I was slow to see this coming. Four months ago, I blithely advised a group at a local mosque not to obsess over the anti-Muslim undertones of the presidential campaign. At that point, Barack Obama was defending his Christian bona fides against "accusations" of "being a Muslim" (as if it had suddenly become a Class-D felony), but was doing so without condemning the implicit slurs against Islam, Muslims and Arabs.

In a "don't worry, be happy" tone, I breezily noted that although the stoking of racial fear and xenophobia was a cherished tradition of American politics, I really didn't think that this time around the candidates would permit the wholesale slander of Islam or Muslims.

Apparently, I was wrong. The undertones have become screaming overtones. And it is past time to object.

If it wasn't clear before, it became crystal clear last week in the aftermath of Republican rallies. Fomenting fear to shore up drooping support, Republicans sadly used heated demagoguery about "palling around with terrorists," about "Barack Hussein Obama" and about how Obama doesn't "see America like you and I," words that mixed subliminally to conflate "terror" with "Muslim" and to whip crowds into xenophobic anger. After his enraged supporters were recorded uttering death threats and racial slurs, McCain was forced on several occasions to try to tamp down the anger in the audience and to defend his opponent.

That was a good step one—until McCain blew it. A woman stood up in the audience and said that she just couldn't trust Obama because, as she put it, "he's an Arab." McCain shook his head, took the microphone and said: "No, ma'am. He's a decent family man, citizen, that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues."

So, what is he saying? Arabs aren't decent family men? They can't be citizens?

The fact is, neither McCain nor Obama—who continues to combat absurd attacks on his Americanness—has been willing to speak out against the implicit slurs against Arabs and Islam.

Is it really too difficult for Obama to respond: "For the hundredth time, I am a Christian, and if you are suggesting that there is something wrong with Islam or being a Muslim, you are wrong"?

Would it be so hard for McCain to say: "There is no room in my campaign or in America for religious or ethnic intolerance—that's what we're fighting against"?

Maybe I missed the denunciations amid all the hoopla over field-dressing moose, but it looks like the next ice age will arrive before the NAACP, the National Conference of Christians and Jews or the Anti-Defamation League loudly objects to the implicit defamation of Muslims and Arabs that has seeped into this presidential campaign.

Women rightly protested gender bias during Hillary Rodham Clinton's run, but we failed to strongly challenge the earlier bias against Mormons during Mitt Romney's bid, and we are currently failing to refute the anti-Muslim bias embedded in the assaults on Obama.

It is a failure we need to correct now.

Rice is a civil rights attorney in Los Angeles.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you

I will never forget the many days of walking through As Lito's hilly highway.

During the course of my ordeal, I met many unfriendly dogs along the way. I crossed path with many cars coming my way and going the other way. I saw a couple of stinging bees flying in disarray from many directions. I caught many eyes looking at me with different looks, gestures, impressions, expressions, and receptions. I guess my struggling ordeal way my own unknown messenger of where my next level would be in life.

I had the opportunity during my ordeal to cross path with many people that I had lost touch for years. No matter how hard and painful my ordeal was, the fact of the matter and in the name of humanity, these people deserve recognition and commendation for the tremendous goodness of their hearts.

The general public of the CNMI needs to know who these people are just for the record so they can be rewarded for their good deeds: Henry "Kappon" M. Sablan, Vincent M. Sablan, William M. Sakisat and wife, Roman "Kobe" Q. Deleon Guerrero and wife, Masao Seman, Felix M. Sakisat and wife, Alfonso (Palauan), Frank S. Ada, David S. Palacios, Pedro Borja (Tiso), Norbert A. Mendiola, Ando Matsumoto, Magdalen T. Sablan, Antonio Raisang, Joaquin M. Manglona, Juan C. Deleon Guerrero (Beck) Remedio A. Villagomez, Merced A, Hockett, Herman T, Palacios and wife, Lourdes M. Dijillias and husband, Juan O. Pangelinan and wife, Bernando R. Cruz, Antonio Lizama, Jose A. Reyes (ABTC), Erlinda Romolor, Alex M. Sakisat and wife, Eusebio Borja and wife, Joaquin Aguon and wife, Candido Baleto, Jose T. Lizama, Jose M. Cabrera, JJ C, Cabrera, Roman CH. Benevente, Antonio Cabrera (Amerikano), Vicente M. Aldan, Luisa P. Matagolai and son, and many others whom I didn't know their names.

May God bless you and you families always in all of you endeavors now and in the future.

Martin Sakisat
Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds near 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

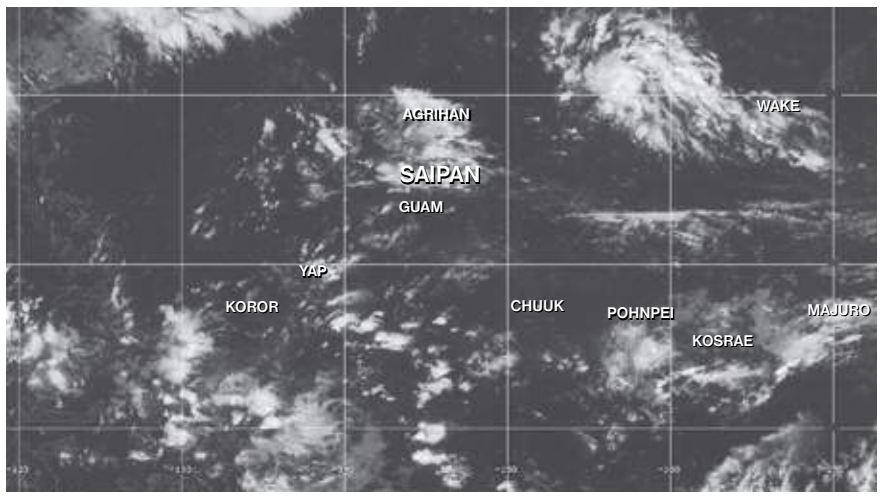
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲58	▼48
Beijing	Showers	▲75	▼52
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲82	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼58
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲84	▼67
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼72
New York	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼46
Osaka	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲77	▼54
Rome	Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼41
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼50
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼45

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shearline stretches west-southwestward from north of Iwo To island to 23N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are found southeast of Okinawa or north of a line from 22N130E to 25N137E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing the formation of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over CNMI north of Saipan between 16N and 21N from 143E to 148E and from Wake Island to Minamitori Shima or northwest of a line from 16N160E to 18N168E. Widely scattered showers are seen over Saipan and Tinian within 50 miles of a line from 15N148E to 16N142E and west of CNMI from 17N140E to 19N138E. A surface trough extends southeastward from a circulation over the southern Philippines to end at EQ135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming southwest of Palau or southwest of a line from 7N130E to EQ139E. Trade-wind convergence is causing widely scattered showers from Yap and southeastward to near the equator within 115 miles of a line from 10N138E to 2N146E. Similar conditions also exit south of Pohnpei and Kosrae but over Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 4N157E to 2N164E to 8N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:44AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:49AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:12PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
9:01PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09AM	5:55 PM
Sunday	6:09AM	5:54 PM
Monday	6:10AM	5:54 PM
Tuesday	6:10AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:10AM	5:53 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:49PM	9:21AM
Sunday	9:53PM	10:27AM
Monday	10:58PM	11:28AM
Tuesday		12:24PM
Wednesday	12:00AM	1:14PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 18, 1999

Ingram should quit
Saying he has lost his capability to head a sensitive government agency, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez urged Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram to step down in the wake of the latest jailbreak that occurred under his leadership. He also called on Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to sack his DPS chief to allow other people to administer the department's functions, which he said are very critical to the community at anytime.

Teno, Lang meet over $12M lawsuit
Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's appeal for assistance in connection with a court ruling on a taxpayers' lawsuit that ordered him to pay $12.4 million was denied by the current administration following his meeting last Friday with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The former governor objected to the interpretation of the Attorney General's Office on an existing law on public employee legal defense and indemnification, saying it was wrong.

Finance: 'We're not holding off rebates'
The Department of Finance on Friday assured taxpayers anew of timely payment of rebates and refunds by the government amid speculations that it is intentionally delaying release of the checks due to lack of funds. In a statement, finance officials said over 28,000 taxpayers have already received their rebates amounting to nearly $20 million since last month when the Division of Revenue and Taxation mailed out the first batch of checks.

October 18, 2000

U.S. lawmakers step up takeover campaign
House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta has warned that some U.S. lawmakers advocating federal takeover in the CNMI have increased their pressure on other members of Congress to persuade them to support pending legislation affecting the islands. He likewise expressed concern that these bills seeking extension of federal laws on immigration, minimum wage and even abolition of trade privileges granted the Commonwealth could be attached to popular measures, like appropriation, up for voting in Congress.

Average quarterly user fee collection drops 7 percent
A strong validation of the projected drop in apparel production, controversies hounding garment manufacturing activities on Saipan pulled down the Commonwealth government's average user fee collection in the first half of Fiscal Year 2000. The Quarterly Economic Review, prepared by the commerce department's Central Statistics Division, disclosed a seven-percent fall in the amount of taxes paid by garment manufacturers for apparel products exported by the Northern Marianas from October 1999 to March 2000 CPA beefs up efforts for gaming activities at airport

CPA beefs up efforts for gaming activities at airport
In its bid to increase non-aviation revenues in order to reduce airport charges, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is mopping out plans to provide casino-gaming facilities at the West Tinian International Airport. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said CPA has been informed by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission that a license from the agency is needed only when the activity is going to be held at a hotel-casino complex..

October 18, 2001

Budget deadlock looms
House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday expressed doubts the Legislature would be able to pass a current budget in light of the narrow-minded approach the Senate is taking on the omnibus spending package. "No matter how hard we try to get it [the budget measure] going, it's just not possible because our good senators have already closed their minds and are not willing to budge an inch," said Fitial.

Legislator: Criminalize 'terroristic threatening'
Alarmed over a rash of fake bomb threats that has been springing up all over the CNMI, Sen. Jose M. dela Cruz said he would be introducing a bill that would criminalize "terroristic threatening." Under the proposed measure, which would be known as the Terroristic Threatening Act, those convicted of this crime will be imprisoned for five years or less.

Business

Dow ends up 401 pts in another stunning U-turn

NEW YORK (AP)—A stock market as difficult to fathom as it is volatile pulled off another stunning U-turn on Thursday, transforming a 380-point loss for the Dow Jones industrials into a 401-point gain. Was it the government's bailout beginning to have an effect? The credit markets finally beginning to loosen up? Investors looking for a bottom in stocks?

Wall Street seemed sure of this much: The whipsawing will continue. So buckle up.

"You're not going to see 50-point ranges, you're going to see two-three-four hundred point ranges," said Woody Dorsey, president of Market Semiotics, a financial forecasting firm in Castleton, Vt.

At any other time in the history of the stock markets, a day like Thursday would be enough to draw a double take. But in these extraordinary times, it was the second-calmest day of the week.

The Dow set a record on Monday with a 936-point gain. After a 77-point loss on Tuesday, a relative breather, sellers stampeded on Wednesday and drove the Dow back down 733.

On Thursday, heavy selling in the morning took the Dow close to 8,200, but stocks rallied into the lunch hour and picked up steam in the afternoon. The average finished at 8,979.26.

The gain of 401 points marked the 21st trading session out of the past 24 in which the Dow has finished with a triple-digit gain or loss, an unprecedented run of volatility.

Thanks to a massive cash infusion by European central banks and the U.S. Treasury, interest rates on overnight, one-week and two-week debt began to shrink, and lending loosened up just a bit.

"It's a start, but we've still got a long way to go," said Kim Rupert, fixed income analyst at research firm Action Economics LLC.

Loan auctions by the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the Swiss National Bank, as well as the Federal Reserve's plan to buy about $250 billion in bank stocks, seemed to restore some confidence to credit markets.

"Credit markets are thawing," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank. "The fear I had that our capital market system would grind to a halt—I don't have that concern. I can sleep all night now."

The economic picture did not look much rosier. Prices stayed flat overall in September, the government reported—meaning inflation is in check, at least for now. Gas, clothes and new cars got cheaper, and food, medical care and other items got more expensive.

In an indicator that more price declines might follow, crude oil fell $3.14 a barrel to $71.40, about where it was a year ago and a level unimaginable over the summer, when gasoline soared past $4 a gallon.

Asia stock markets mixed after Wall Street rebound

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stocks were modestly mixed in early trade Friday after Wall Street rebounded strongly overnight, with Japan's market recovering from its historic fall in the previous session.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 stock average advanced 129.66 points, or 1.53 percent, to 8,588.11. The index was still far from recouping Thursday's 11.4 percent loss—its biggest one-day percentage drop since the stock market crash of October 1987.

Compared to the gyrations this past week, Asian markets seemed to stabilize. Hong Kong's benchmark was flat, while indices in Australia and South Korea were down about half a percent.

On Thursday, Asian markets plunged as weaker-than-expected U.S. retail sales data and a downbeat assessment from the U.S. Federal Reserve showed the world's largest economy, a major market for Asian exports, was heading into a recession.

"Within in Asia, people are getting worried about a recession," said Daniel McCormack, a strategist for Macquarie Securities in Hong Kong. "Today people are trying to work out which sector, which stocks, which companies are going to get hit and starting to position themselves accordingly."

Overnight in New York, a late wave of buying lifted the Dow Jones industrials 4.7 percent, or 400 points, to 8,979.26 in a yet another volatile session that saw the benchmark swing more than 800 points.

The Dow remains up 528 points, or 6.3 percent, for the week.

Markets in Europe fell Thursday, with Britain's FTSE 100 index dropping 5.4 percent and Germany's DAX sinking 4.9 percent.

In oil, light, sweet crude for November delivery was $3.03 higher a $72.88 a barrel in Asian trade. The contract dropped $4.69, or 6.2 percent, in overnight trade to settle at $69.85 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The dollar rose to 101.54 yen from 101.30 late Thursday in New York.

Nation

Obama extends his campaign into Republican states

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama extended his front-running campaign into West Virginia, a bastion of white, middle-class voters who rejected his primary season appeals, and confidently broached the subject of victory in a presidential contest playing out on Republican turf.

GOP rival John McCain found himself looking for a break as he was largely forced to defend his standing in states President Bush won four years ago.

"We are now 19 days not from the end but from the beginning," Obama told the crowd at a New York fundraiser a day after the final presidential debate. He noted the "extraordinary" work ahead for the next president.

Still, he warned against getting "giddy or cocky," reminding supporters with two words: "New Hampshire."

"You know, I've been in these positions before where we were favored and the press starts getting carried away and we end up getting spanked," he said. Obama won the Iowa caucuses, only to lose the New Hampshire primary to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. "We want to make sure that we are closing strong, running through the tape."

AP

Rain begins to fall as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, speaks during an outdoor campaign stop at Mack's Apples in Londonderry, N.H., Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008.

An energized McCain told voters, "Choose well. There's much at stake," as he campaigned in Pennsylvania, one of a dwindling number of Democratic-leaning states the Arizona senator still hopes to put in the GOP column.

Hitting his likely theme for the final weeks, McCain said the Democrat wants to "spread the wealth around" but that "people are not going to let Sen. Obama raise their taxes in a tough economy." And, he tried anew to make the first-term Illinois senator's resume a liability: "The next president won't have time to get used to the office. He won't have the luxury of studying up on the issues before he acts."

With their face-to-face debates over, both candidates are courting an estimated third of voters who are undecided or could still change their minds. Obama is looking to solidify his advantage in polling in key battlegrounds as the political environment and economic crisis favors Democrats.

McCain is trying to change the dynamics, but even Republicans acknowledge it's largely out of McCain's hands.

"It appears Obama is trying to build a mandate," said Steve Lombardo, a Republican pollster in Washington. "Can McCain do anything to turn it around? Doubtful."

McCain, Obama trade jokes, not jabs at NYC dinner

NEW YORK (AP)—John McCain and Barack Obama swapped self-deprecating jokes instead of campaign jabs Thursday night, the Republican saying he had replaced his team of senior advisers with "Joe the Plumber" while the Democrat claimed his own "greatest strength would be my humility."

Said Obama: "Contrary to the rumors you have heard, I was not born in a manger. I was actually born on Krypton and sent here by my father, Jorel, to save the planet Earth," a reference to Superman.

McCain joked that Democrats had already begun attacking Joe the Plumber, the Ohio man whom he referred to in Wednesday night's debate, and claimed "that this honest, hardworking small businessman could not possibly have enough income to face a tax increase under the Obama plan."

"What they don't know is that Joe the Plumber recently signed a very lucrative contract with a wealthy couple to handle all the work on all seven of their houses," McCain said, drawing laughter with the reference to his property holdings.

The two men spoke at the 63rd annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner, a charity event organized by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York for the benefit of needy children. An estimated $4 million was raised.

The event often draws politicians as speakers and, by long tradition, presidential candidates appear as headliners every four years. In this case, the evening of humor came one night after an intense final debate of the presidential campaign.

McCain lampooned Obama's primary opponent, Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as himself.

"Even in this room full of proud Manhattan Democrats, I can't shake the feeling that some people here are pulling for me," he said, before adding: "I'm delighted to see you here tonight, Hillary."

Georgia woman with 5 dead spouses leaves jail

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A Georgia grandmother who came under suspicion because all five of her husbands had died was released Thursday from a North Carolina jail where she had been held on charges in one of their deaths.

Betty Neumar, 76, posted $300,000 bond late Thursday morning at the Stanly County jail, where she's been held since her arrest in May, Sheriff Rick Burris said.

Neumar is charged with solicitation to commit first-degree murder in the 1986 death of her fourth husband, Harold Gentry.

"I can't believe they let her out. It's just wrong, flat out wrong. I don't understand," said Gentry's brother, Al, who pressed law enforcement for more than two decades to get the case reopened.

Prosecutors allege Betty Neumar tried to hire three people to kill Gentry in the six weeks before his bullet-riddled body was found in his rural North Carolina home.

AP

In this June 10, 2008 file photo provided by the Augusta, Ga., Police Dept. Betty Johnson Neumar is shown at her booking in Augusta, Ga. Neumar charged in the death of one of her five dead husbands has been released from a North Carolina jail.

Since her arrest, police in Florida and Ohio have begun to re-examine the deaths of her first child—Gary Flynn, whose 1985 death was ruled a suicide—and three of her other husbands, though she faces no charges in those cases.

Georgia police recently closed their re-examination of the death of her fifth husband, John Neumar, saying they have no evidence she was involved.

His son, John K. Neumar, was also shocked to find she was out of jail: "I've lost all faith in the legal system," he said from his Georgia home.

Neumar's attorney, Charles Parnell, said the case has "been blown out of proportion." He said evidence continues to be released that shows his client wasn't involved in her husbands' deaths.

Parnell said he expected Neumar to return to Georgia, where she lives with her daughter.

Al Gentry said law enforcement officers have told him to be careful since he was instrumental in Neumar's arrest.

Officials: FBI investigates ACORN for voter fraud

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI is investigating whether the community activist group ACORN helped foster voter registration fraud around the nation before the presidential election. A senior law enforcement official confirmed the investigation to The Associated Press on Thursday.

A second senior law enforcement official says the FBI was looking at results of recent raids on ACORN offices in several states for any evidence of a coordinated national scam.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Justice Department regulations forbid discussing ongoing investigations particularly so close to an election.

ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, says it has registered 1.3 million young people, minorities and poor and working-class voters - most of whom tend to be Democrats.

Republican accusations about the group were raised during Wednesday's presidential debate between Democrat Barack Obama and GOP candidate John McCain.

Some ACORN employees have been accused of submitting false voter registration forms—including some signed `Mickey Mouse' or other fictitious characters.

Those voter registration cards have become the focus of fraud investigations in Nevada, Connecticut, Missouri and at least five other states. Election officials in Ohio and North Carolina also recently questioned the group's voter forms.

ACROSS THE NATION

Shooting near Detroit high school kills 1 student

DETROIT (AP)—A gunman stepped out of a sport utility vehicle and shot four teenagers on a primary-school lawn near their Detroit high school shortly after class let out Thursday, killing one of them, police said. Three teenagers were arrested at their homes about five hours after the shooting near Henry Ford High School, Deputy Police Chief James Tate said. The male suspects are 15, 16 and 18, and the 16-year-old is a student at the high school, Tate said. One suspect and one victim had fought earlier in the day at the school, he said. Christopher Walker, 16, was pronounced dead at Providence Hospital, a spokesman said. He was an 11th-grader at Henry Ford, Detroit Public Schools spokesman Steve Wasko told the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News. A 15-year-old female student was being treated at Providence for a gunshot wound, Wasko said. A 16-year-old male 10th-grader and another 16-year-old boy no longer enrolled at Henry Ford were being treated at another hospital, Wasko said. All three were in serious condition, said Wasko, who did not return calls from The Associated Press on Thursday night.

Pa. man chews through belly-busting, 15-lb. burger

CLEARFIELD, Pa. (AP)—It took Brad Sciullo 4 hours and 39 minutes to finish a marathon. A meat marathon, that is. The 5-foot-11, 180-pound western Pennsylvania chef is the first person to eat a monstrosity called the Beer Barrel Belly Bruiser: a 15-pound burger with toppings and a bun that brought the total weight to 20.2 pounds. The mountain of beef is the product of Denny's Beer Barrel Pub, about 100 miles northeast of Pittsburgh in Clearfield. Sciullo, 21, of Uniontown, said he was surprised he finished the sandwich Monday. "About three hours into it, things got tough," he said. When asked what possessed him to eat a burger that big, Sciullo said: "I wanted to see if I could." The burger included a bun, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, onions, mild banana peppers and a cup each of mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard and relish, pub owner Dennis Liegey said. For completing the challenge in the under-five-hour time limit, Sciullo won $400, three T-shirts, a certificate "and a burger hangover, as I call it," Liegey said.

Asia

AP

South Korean Air Force soldiers look around the barbed wire fence during their visit to Imjingak near the demilitarized zone of Panmunjom, South Korea, Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008.

S. Korea seeks to calm N. Korea following threat

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea sought to calm North Korea on Friday after the communist nation threatened to end all relations with the South, saying Seoul does not want confrontation with Pyongyang and dialogue is the best way to resolve problems.

North Korea made the threat Thursday, accusing the South of seeking a policy of "reckless confrontation" with it. The warning was seen as an attempt to pressure Seoul's new conservative government to change its hard-line stance on Pyongyang.

The warning raised concern in South Korea that the North may ditch two key civilian projects between the sides—a tour program and an industrial park project—which have continued despite a freeze in government-level exchanges and dialogue.

"We don't in any way want confrontation with North Korea," said Kim Ho-nyeon, spokesman for Seoul's Unification Ministry in charge of relations with Pyongyang. "Our position remains unchanged that we want to resolve all problems through dialogue between the South and the North."

North Korea has been unhappy with South Korea's new President Lee Myung-bak, who took office in February with a pledge to get tough on the rival state—a stance that contrasted with that of his two liberal predecessors who aggressively sought reconciliation by providing massive aid to the impoverished nation.

China's top dairies battle to regain public trust

HOHHOT, China (AP)—China's dairy giants opened their factories to a government-led media tour Thursday in a bid to stave off losses and regain the public's trust after their products were found tainted with a chemical that killed four infants and sickened tens of thousands.

Executives from Mengniu Dairy Group Co. and Yili Industrial Group Co.—both based in Inner Mongolia, where sprawling grasslands serve as grazing land to some 2.5 million cows—promised that stepped up testing and new procedures would ensure that similar contamination won't happen again.

Together the companies control more than half of China's dairy market.

"Provide 100 percent safety to consumers," read a slogan on a red banner in the spotless processing and packaging hall at Yili's headquarters in Hohhot, the capital of the Inner Mongolia.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Missile strike, suicide attack kill 5 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. missile strike killed a purported foreign militant Thursday in a Pakistani tribal area considered a haven for the Taliban and al-Qaida, while a suicide bombing left four security personnel dead, officials said. The missile strike in South Waziristan hit a house overrun with foreign and Pakistani militants since last year, when its owner fled the remote, forested area considered a likely hiding place for al-Qaida leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri, officials said. Two Pakistani intelligence officials told The Associated Press that reports from informants and field agents suggested one foreign militant died and another foreigner was injured. Asked if any al-Qaida leaders had been hit, the officials said Arabs were living in the house but the identities of the victims were not yet clear. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media publicly.

Missile strike, suicide attack kill 5 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. missile strike killed a purported foreign militant Thursday in a Pakistani tribal area considered a haven for the Taliban and al-Qaida, while a suicide bombing left four security personnel dead, officials said. The missile strike in South Waziristan hit a house overrun with foreign and Pakistani militants since last year, when its owner fled the remote, forested area considered a likely hiding place for al-Qaida leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri, officials said. Two Pakistani intelligence officials told The Associated Press that reports from informants and field agents suggested one foreign militant died and another foreigner was injured. Asked if any al-Qaida leaders had been hit, the officials said Arabs were living in the house but the identities of the victims were not yet clear.

Anti-government protesters march in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thousands of anti-government protesters blocked traffic in Bangkok on Friday, a day after Thailand's influential army chief hinted the prime minister should resign following a violent confrontation between police and protesters outside parliament last week. The protest on Bangkok's busy streets came amid a deepening political crisis that has nearly paralyzed the government. Protesters accused Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat of ordering the violent suppression of a demonstration last week and demanded his resignation. Army chief Gen. Anupong Paochinda strongly hinted that Somchai should resign after the confrontation between police and protesters outside parliament last week that killed one demonstrator and injured more than 400 other people. Some demonstrators had carried guns, iron rods, slingshots and rocks, and rioters torched parked cars, trucks and vans.

World

UN chief calls for improved security in Lebanon border

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Thursday praised improving ties between Lebanon and Syria, but called on the two countries to take further steps to bolster security along their border.

He also warned that Lebanon will not be a fully sovereign state until Hezbollah, and other militia groups are disarmed.

The secretary-general's six-month report to the U.N. Security Council, obtained by The Associated Press, focused on the country's progress in holding presidential elections, but underscored the immediate danger of armed groups.

"Over the last six months, Lebanon has experienced both the ruinous effects of sectarian violence and hope and optimism," he said in the report.

"I applaud the historical steps that have been taken so far by Presidents Suleiman and Al-Assad," he said. "For the first time since their independence, the two neighboring states are establishing diplomatic relations."

The foreign ministers of Syria and Lebanon signed a document Wednesday formalizing diplomatic ties between the two countries for the first time in their turbulent history. The signing comes a day after Syrian President Bashar Assad issued a decree establishing diplomatic relations with its smaller neighbor - a long-standing demand of the West and Lebanese politicians opposed to Syria's influence in the country.

The two countries have not had formal diplomatic relations since both gained independence from France in the 1940s in an arrangement that many Lebanese viewed as a result of Syria's refusal to recognize Lebanese sovereignty.

Ban said Lebanese President Michel Suleiman's election on May 25 "represented a significant step forward," but said "I remain concerned by the political assassinations and explosions that continue to plague Lebanon."

In the report, Ban called on Lebanese parties to immediately halt all efforts to acquire and build paramilitary units.

He reiterated that militias should be reduced through political dialogue. "The ultimate purpose of disarmament is the establishment of a strong Lebanese state for all inhabitants of Lebanon," he said.

"Hezbollah's maintenance of separate military assets and infrastructure is a fundamental challenge to the government's attempts to consolidate the sovereignty and authority of the Lebanese state," he said, adding that several Palestinian militias also operate in the country.

Analysts: al-Qaida has funds despite economic woes

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Al-Qaida, which gets its money from the drug trade in Afghanistan and sympathizers in the oil-rich Gulf states, is likely to escape the effects of the global financial crisis.

One reason is that al-Qaida and other Islamic terrorists have been forced to avoid using banks, relying instead on less-efficient ways to move their cash around the world, analysts said.

Those methods include hand-carrying money and using informal transfer networks called hawalas.

While escaping official scrutiny, those networks also are slower and less efficient—and thus could hamper efforts to finance attacks.

"It would be inconceivable that large amounts of (terror-linked) money would transit through the formal financial system, because of all the controls," said Ibrahim Warde, an expert on terrorist financing at The Fletcher School at Tufts University.

The question of where al-Qaida and its sympathizers get their money has long been crucial to efforts to prevent terrorist attacks. A 2004 U.S. investigation found that banks in the United Arab Emirates had unwittingly handled most of the $400,000 spent on the Sept. 11 attacks.

After the attacks, the U.S. made an aggressive push to use law enforcement techniques to disrupt terrorist financing networks and worked with allies to improve their own financial and regulatory institutions.

Al-Qaida and the Taliban have benefited from the drug trade's growth in Afghanistan after the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, and the booming business likely will not be affected by the global slowdown.

Opium cultivation has fallen slightly this year but is still about 20 times higher than in 2001, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

Former U.S. drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffrey, who recently consulted with U.S. and NATO officials in Afghanistan, issued a report in July saying al-Qaida and the Taliban "are principally funded by what some estimate as $800 million a year derived from the huge $4 billion annual illegal production and export of opium/heroin and cannabis."

In addition, wealthy donors and Islamic charities in the oil-rich Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia, continue to be "one of the most significant sources of illicit financing for terrorism," said Matthew Levitt, a former Treasury Department terrorism expert now with The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Shiite split could complicate US security pact

BAGHDAD (AP)—A looming split between the two Shiite parties that dominate Iraq's government threatens efforts to win parliamentary approval for a security pact with the U.S. and could set the stage for a major struggle for power in the oil-rich Shiite southern heartland.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dawa Party and the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council led by Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim have been allies since the 2003 fall of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led regime.

Now they are rapidly turning into bitter rivals, raising the specter of a weakened Shiite front ahead of two key elections next year.

The security agreement, reached after months of tortuous negotiations, would allow U.S. troops to remain here after their U.N. mandate expires Dec. 31. It is critical to ensuring Iraq's security until government forces are capable of taking charge of the fight against insurgents.

A draft has been completed and the government is preparing to submit it to parliament for final approval—which U.S. officials believe is by no means certain.

Although passage would require only a majority of the 275-member parliament, al-Maliki will submit the draft only if he is convinced it will receive two-thirds support—which would allow him to fend off critics both here and in neighboring countries such as Iran and Syria, according to al-Maliki's aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss strategy.

To reach two-thirds, the draft would need the 30 votes from the Supreme Council.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice discussed the pact over the telephone late Wednesday with Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi, a top member of the Supreme Council. (In Washington, Defense Secretary Robert Gates was calling U.S. congressional leaders in support of the agreement.)

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Peso, stocks down: 'Worst is not over'

By DORIS DUMLAO, ELIZABETH SANCHEZ-LACSON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The peso Thursday weakened past 48 to the dollar and the Philippine Stock Exchange index fell 5.18 percent amid growing fears of a global recession.

The peso fell 0.49 from Wednesday's closing rate of 47.61 to the dollar. After opening at the day's high of 47.75I, it closed at the day's low of 48.10, its weakest finish since ending at 48.17 on April 3, 2007.

The peso has fallen 14 percent so far this year and become one of Asia's worst-performing currencies.

As US stocks posted a steep decline, panicky investors dumped stocks, bonds and currencies from emerging markets and shifted to US dollars when Asian markets opened.

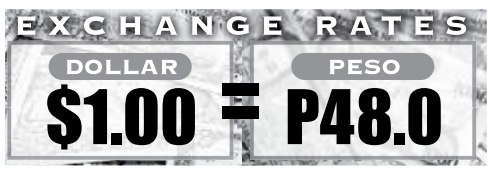
"The worst is not yet over. Probably it's just the start," said Eddie Gobing, president of Lucky Securities Inc.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Unibank said, "It's due to renewed risk aversion and the possible vulnerability of overseas Filipino remittances added to the uncertainty."

While overseas Filipinos' cash remittances have given the country a steady flow of foreign exchange over the past few years, those inflows are expected to weaken as the global economy is on the cusp of a major downturn.

AP

A Filipino investor takes a break from monitoring activities at the Philippine Stock Exchange in the financial district of Makati, south of Manila, Philippines on Thursday Oct. 16, 2008.



The remittances through banks grew 10.4 percent year-on-year in August, slowing from 24.6 percent in July, according to central bank data. [Read story]

Ravelas said the next resistance to the dollar's further rally against the peso would be at 48.50.

The stock market decline "was driven by the volatility in offshore markets," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, treasurer at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. "So as stock prices were going down, sentiment on the foreign exchange market also weakened."

As of 9:31 a.m., a minute after the market's open, the PSEi skidded 2.9 percent or 66.97 points to 2,171.44.

Asian stocks in general posted sharp losses Thursday, with main Asian indices plunging by as much as 10 percent.

The numbers were ominous signs that the US, a critical export market for Asia, was sliding into recession.

"Absent any market moving news, investors' trades will be taking its cue from this development," said Justino Calaycay, trader at Accord Capital Equities. "Foreign selling may still dominate trades and keep local investors on the sidelines."

80 sad workers mirror the crisis

By RECTO MERCENE
BUSINESSMIRROR

The feared loss of foreign jobs in the wake of the world financial turmoil has come true for 80 overseas Filipino workers who came home in the last two days, 52 of them arriving from Bucharest, Romania, at 8 a.m. on Wednesday.

On Tuesday 28 other OFWs flew in aboard a KLM air carrier, Flight KL803, also from Romania.

All of the returning workers were dressmakers in a garment factory named Mundo Star, an exporter of high-quality coats, blazers, tuxedos and trousers to the United States.

"Here I am, struck by bad luck," Mirasol Sacarias, 48, of Taytay, Rizal, lamented in Pilipino.

Asked to explain, Sacarias said: "I am one of those with broken dreams," adding that instead of five years' work, their stay was suddenly cut short to five months.

Zacarias left for Romania on April 30, with a contract of $400 a month for the next two years. However, she said that because of bad business following the collapse of the European financial sector, their salary was reduced to $164 a month.

"[Our employer] reneged on the contract; they did not comply with the agreed salary," she added. Juliana Cunanan, 40, of Antipolo City, gave the same reason for returning home.

"We thought that we would be able to get out of poverty," she said in Filipino, adding the $400 salary would have been more than enough for her family to survive.

Govt readies livelihood fund for displaced OFWs

By MIA M. GONZALEZ
BUSINESSMIRROR

President Arroyo announced on Wednesday the government is preparing an "expatriate livelihood-support fund" to assist overseas Filipino workers (OFW) who may be displaced by deteriorating economic conditions in their host countries.

The President said in a speech after oathtaking ceremonies of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines in Malacanang that labor officials and her economic managers presented their respective contingency plans for OFWs and ordinary Filipinos at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

"Part of the contingency plan is a labor contingency plan and this includes an expatriate livelihood-support fund...to serve as buffer fund which the Filipino expats, who may be displaced by the global economic meltdown, can access. It can serve as a counterpart fund for returning expats' livelihood progress," the President said.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque earlier said that while there are no indications, so far, that OFWs would be greatly affected by the global economic situation, the government is ready with a plan to help out the sector if necessary.

Mrs. Arroyo said that officials may present the contingency plans in "greater detail" at the Philippine Business Forum on October 22.

UNKNOWN IMPACT AP

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary for migrant affairs Esteban Conejos gestures as he talks with members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines in suburban Manila on Wednesday Oct. 15, 2008. Conejos said the effects of the financial crisis on workers remain unknown, and there are no immediate indications Filipinos are losing their jobs abroad or demand for them has slowed down. ***See related story on Page 14.***

? LABOR FRONT

Stay for litigation purposes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: How long can an alien worker who has a terminated contract stay in the CNMI if he or she files a Labor or criminal complaint?

A: According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a guest worker must exit the CNMI within 15 days after the termination of an approved employment contract or any renewal. However, an automatic extension of an additional 15 days is available if the alien worker is in the process of preparing a complaint to be filed with the Department of Labor, a civil complaint to be filed with any court, or a complaint to the Department of Public Safety with respect to a criminal matter.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can an alien worker who files a Labor complaint request for an extension of time to leave CNMI from Labor's Administrative Hearing Office?

A: The regulations state that a foreign national worker who attends a mediation session after filing a Labor complaint may request for an extension of time for departure from the CNMI from the Labor administrative hearing officer.

In deciding a request for extension of time, the hearing officer should consider whether the alien worker is likely not to appear at the hearing, or a deportation order already has been entered, the worker may continue a fraudulent scheme to the detriment of the Commonwealth, the worker has adequate resources to return to the CNMI for proceedings before Labor, or equivalent circumstances exist.

■ ■ ■

Q: If the Labor administrative hearing officer denies a worker's request for an extension of time to depart CNMI, does he or she has the right to appeal?

A: The regulations state that a denial of a request for an extension of time may be appealed to Labor's Administrative Hearing Office within 15 days after the date of the denial. A hearing officer's order granting an extension of time must also set an initial hearing date in the matter.

***Disclaimer**: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice.* Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the* Saipan Tribune*'s office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

Ship with 21 Pinoys seized

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Foreign Affairs on Thursday confirmed the hijacking of another ship, this one with 21 Filipino seamen, by Somali pirates.

This brings up to 66 the number of Filipino seamen held hostage by Somali pirates.

In a text message quoting reports from the Philippine embassy in Nairobi, DFA Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. confirmed the M/V African Sanderling, a Panama-flagged, Japan-operated, and Korea-owned bulk carrier was hijacked Wednesday.

He said he has instructed the Philippine embassies in Seoul, Tokyo, and Nairobi to coordinate with the ship owners and operators and with international maritime authorities on efforts to secure the early and safe release of the crew members.

Since April 20 this year, 12 ships, including the African Sanderling, with 141 Filipino seamen, were hijacked in the waters off Somalia, particularly in the Gulf of Aden.

At an earlier interview with Conejos this morning, he said the Philippines supports international efforts to secure the region.

These efforts include the United Nations Security Council resolution in July which allowed military ships into the waters of Somalia to stop piracy in the region.

Conejos said the mandate, which will end in December, may be extended to include ships from Greece and The Netherlands.

He said international cooperation is needed to stop the piracy as Somalia has 3,000 miles of shore and the African country remains unstable, with no central government.

Conejos said the pirates appear to initially bring a hijacked ship to the port in Eyl village, northeast of Somalia. When a new ship is hijacked, the pirates move the first ship to another port.

"This goes on like a relay every time there's a new hijacked ship. The ships are distributed in different ports," he said.

RP troops report casualties among Muslim rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops said they inflicted heavy casualties among Muslim rebels as they pursued guerrilla commanders blamed for a flare-up of violence, but no bodies were found after airstrikes.

Military spokesman Maj. Randolph Cabangbang said at least 13 Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels were believed killed in Thursday's airstrikes in Andavit village in southern Maguindanao province, where troops overran several rebel positions.

But he said the rebels had already left the camp when troops arrived and no bodies were recovered. Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu denied any casualties, calling the reports "military propaganda."

Col. Marlou Salazar, an army brigade commander in the area, said the operation was launched after the military received information that about 60 rebels blamed for attacking Christian villages had assembled in the vicinity.

They were reportedly led by Umra Kato, one of three rebel commanders wanted by the government for allegedly ordering the Aug. 18 attacks that left dozens of people hacked or shot to death. The rebels said they were angry when the country's Supreme Court blocked the signing of a peace agreement after 11 years of tough negotiations.

Upset by the violence, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered the arrest of the three commanders and suspended peace talks indefinitely.

The rebel group—with an estimated 11,000 fighters—has been battling for self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's volatile south for decades.

Despite the sporadic violence, both sides said they will respect a 2003 cease-fire, which has been monitored by a handful of international observers.

9-year-old girl used as a courier for illegal drugs

MANILA, Philippines – A couple who allegedly used a 9-year-old girl as a drug courier two years ago are now facing charges before a Manila regional trial court.

Bokary and Noraesa Bora, residents of Carlos Palanca Street, Muslim Center, Quiapo in Manila, were charged with violation of Republic Act 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act).

The charges stemmed from a complaint filed against them by Sahara Pagagao, a resident of Maharlika Village, Taguig City, who admitted to authorities that she had put up her daughter as "collateral" to procure P15,000-worth of metamphetamine hydrochloride, more popularly known as shabu, from the Boras.

The complainant claimed that on Nov. 18, 2006, she received the illegal substance from the Boras, and left her daughter as guarantee to ensure payment for the merchandise that she was to sell later.

However, upon leaving the area, she was met by a policeman who took the shabu and told her to leave.

When she went to the Boras to report the incident, the complainant said the couple refused to release her daughter. Pagagao then sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation, which helped in the release of the girl on Dec. 12, 2006.

The girl reportedly told authorities that the couple used her as a courier of illegal drugs during her stay with them for over a month.

The Boras failed to appear during the preliminary investigation of the case despite a notice sent to them. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Alleged MILF rebels nab school exec

MANILA, Philippines—A budget officer from a state university in Mindanao was kidnapped by suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Thursday afternoon, a police official said on Friday. Chief Superintendent Bensali Jabarani, regional director of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), identified the victim as Hipolito Minoza, budget officer of Marawi State University. Minoza was abducted by still unidentified men at 3:40 p.m. Thursday along National Highway, Barangay (village) Bubong, Saguiran, Lanao del Sur. Minoza was on his way home when he abducted, Jabarani said. Initial investigation revealed that Minoza was brought to the camp of Abdullah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, a wanted MILF leader. The camp was reportedly located at the boundary of Piagapo, Lanao del Sur and Poona, Piagapo, Lanao del Norte. Police are now conducting follow-up operations to rescue Minoza. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Laoag village chief ambushed–police

MANILA, Philippines— A village chief in the city of Laoag was wounded Friday when two motorcycle-riding men shot her outside the village hall in broad daylight, police official said. Superintendent Wilson Lopez, Laoag City police chief, identified the victim as Maureen Bonoan of Barangay (village) Buttong. Bonoan was shot past 8 a.m. while preparing for a "clean and green" project meeting with other village officials. The suspects, on-board a motorcycle, shot and hit Bonoan on the leg using a 9-millimeter gun, said Lopez. Police intercepted the two suspects in San Nicolas, he said. Police are now questioning the suspects, one of which was identified as Mark Gil Valdez, he said. Bonoan is now getting treatment in the hospital there, Lopez said. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Outlook on overseas Filipino workers mixed

By MIA GONZALEZ
and BUTCH FERNANDEZ
BUSINESSMIRROR

PHOTO BY DFA-PISU

Officials from the DFA, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the International Organization for Migration assist the 15 Filipinos in completing their immigration and customs documents following their arrival at the NAIA from Dubai. The Filipinos form the 49th batch of Filipinos repatriated from Lebanon.

The overseas market for Filipino workers appeared as yet unaffected by the worldwide credit crunch that has led to penny-pinching, but the government has a contingency plan for a worsened situation.

This is the gist of Labor Secretary Marianito Roque's statement on Tuesday when he also called the overseas labor market "stable so far."

"So far, we have not received any indications nor any reports from our 37 labor officers abroad of any reduction in the requirement for Filipino overseas workers. So the situation remains stable on the overseas employment front, and we do not expect any reduction in demand for overseas Filipinos, especially in the Middle East."

The United Opposition does not, however, accept the labor department assurance uncritically. The opposition said there is a looming job loss for overseas Filipino workers and the government should accept this as inevitable and prepare for it.

UNO president Mayor Jejomar Binay of Makati said one of the best tacks is to realign the proposed P1.4-trillion 2009 national budget to provide the needed financial support to uncounted thousands of OFWs who may be displaced and return home with empty pockets.

The realignment in the 2009 budget should start with items considered to be President Arroyo's pork barrel, estimated by the Alternative Budget Initiative to be over P835 million, he added.

"The 2009 budget, for example, needs to be stripped of GMA pork," said Binay. "We have almost a billion pesos that may be disbursed at the President's discretion, and if recent history has taught us a lesson, it is that the discretion has been abused so many times to achieve political ends."

Wake-up call

"This is a wake-up call for the Arroyo administration. It has neglected the local economy to such an extent that it is unprepared to handle a situation where Filipino workers come home and there are thousands out of work, out of money and deep in debt," said Binay. "The government is not ready to give them jobs or other means of livelihood."

Binay lamented that Malacañang has failed even to implement a comprehensive reintegration program for returning Filipino workers. "Overseas deployment was seen as a stopgap measure in the 1970s, but now, overseas Filipinos provide stability to the economy. They are now our main exports."

Roque had also said that the government is tapping nontraditional employment markets like France, New Zealand and Norway. So the policy of exporting labor continues. "The jobs are still there. As a matter of fact, there are new high-paying, high-value jobs that the Filipinos are getting in terms of employment offers."

Foreign govt talks

The labor department recently signed agreements with four Canadian provinces—Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan—that would give skilled OFWs access to high-paying jobs while ensuring the protection of their rights and welfare.

A labor department team is also scheduled to visit Australia to begin talks for employment of Filipinos in its southern part area "so that when the option comes for a Filipino to go overseas to Australia, we will have ample protection mechanisms already in place."

He said Filipino workers who may be tapped by Australia are nurses, information-technology personnel, skilled workers, long-distance truck drivers, hotel service workers and transportation or heavy equipment operators.

Contingency plans

Asked about OFWs who had returned to the country recently, Roque allayed suspicions the workers have lost jobs because of the crisis. He said such homecomings should not be related to the financial crisis because there are some—hundreds or thousands, he didn't say—who usually come home after their contracts have ended.

Roque reiterated a contingency plan has been prepared but declined to give details. "We have assumed a worst-case scenario and we are prepared for it. We have the mechanics to assist our workers, to receive them and, if necessary, provide them with all the necessary assistance."

At the Senate, Sen. Edgardo Angara advised overseas Filipino workers not to panic. "Our country, although not insulated from the global financial crisis, is in a better position now to be able to absorb shock from this credit crisis and financial turbulence."

He appeared to be assuring these workers that if they lose their jobs abroad they could come home and be employed or have income in some form or another. He actually mentioned reforms introduced by the central bank involving increases in capital, increases in provisions for loaned funds, and several laws that will improve the prudential supervision of the banks have buttressed the country's position to withstand the crisis.

Reforms

And among these reforms specifically intended for the OFWs, he said he had authored the already enacted Personal Equity Retirement Account (Pera) and the Credit Information System Act, due for signing by the end of October.

"We will continue to monitor and evaluate developments here because this crisis is not yet over by any measure. Then based on our assessments, we can conduct possible hearings before the year is out," said Angara, who led a consultative meeting at the onset of the crisis to assess the capability of the country to withstand its impacts.

But Binay remains worried because of the sheer number of Filipinos working abroad that could be affected—across the globe, there are some 8 million OFWs.

Citing official statistics, Binay noted that OFW remittances now contribute 9.2 percent to the country's gross national product. Last year OFW remittances exceeded $14 billion, he noted, and if these drop drastically, the country could be in trouble.

A recession in the United States, Europe and Japan would cause many of these OFWs to lose their jobs, according to the French news agency Agence France Presse. Singapore, France, Ireland and New Zealand are now officially in recession, defined as two quarters of negative growth.

PERSONAL FINANCE

What kind of investor are you?

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: It's getting scarier now to read the papers and watch the news on TV. It seems the worldwide economy is on the brink of a recession. I feel like having a heart attack just looking at the value now of my stock investments vis-à-vis a year ago. It's been only a year since I invested in stocks, and I'm not sure now if it was a wise move. What do you suggest I do?—Ronnie

Answer: You're not alone, Ronnie. Many investors throughout the world watch the news and read the papers daily with bated breath wondering what's next. Some big financial institutions in the US have fallen, many Americans are losing their homes and their jobs, and the Dow Jones industrials fell by 777 points in one day--its biggest one day loss ever. Everyone now is watching what will happen with the US government's planned bailout plan for troubled financial institutions. Will it work?

Local stocks have also been affected, as is the case in other countries, with investors moving their money to "safer" assets. Our economies are connected with each other since we do trade with other countries and transact with other financial institutions worldwide. So when the US stock market is down, it's not unusual for other markets to be down too.

Among the asset classes, stocks or equities are one of the, if not the, most volatile investments around. Their prices fluctuate daily, even by the minute, in response to market behavior. It's highly possible for an investor to realize a lot of gains with stock investments given the nature of the asset; on the other hand, it's also possible to lose part of one's capital for the very same reason.

But as they say, no pain, no gain. Without the high risk involved in stock investing, you might not be able to possibly earn as much with no sweat with only your money working for you. With investments, the higher the risk, the higher the possible gains. The lower the risk, the lower the possible gains.

This is why it takes a certain kind of investor to stick it out in the stock market. An aggressive investor willing to assume a high level of risk with a long-term view and willing to tolerate the ups and downs of stock prices will do well with stocks as part of his investment portfolio.

What's your investment persona?

Each person has an investment persona determined by his appetite for risk, financial goals, risk tolerance, and investment horizon. Below are some types of investment persona and samples of investments to match them. To have peace of mind, invest according to your persona. Which one are you?

CONSERVATIVE INVESTOR

Wants money to be safe and sound. Not willing to assume the possible risk of losing his capital. Needs money for short and medium term goals.

Investment tip: Don't put all your money in savings accounts and time deposits. Although they are safe, these accounts yield only a small amount of interest. Invest as well in fixed income funds (mutual fund or unit investment trust fund) to possibly earn more.

MIDDLE GROUND INVESTOR

Wants to make money earn more but does not like to go all the way in investing and assuming risk. Understands the value of keeping a healthy mix of short-term and long-term investments.

Investment tip: Go for balanced funds (mutual fund or UITF) as these allow you to diversify your investments from stocks to bonds and government securities. Real estate, which carries a medium risk, may also be looked into.

AGGRESSIVE INVESTOR

Wants to maximize the earning potential of his investments. Is willing to assume a high level of risk in order to possibly gain a higher yield. Can commit to hold investments for the long term.

Investment tip: Try equity funds which invest in stocks. With more capital and time to monitor the markets, you can also directly invest in the stock market through a stockbroker. Another investment possible for this type of investor is a new business venture.

This is just a guide. For more detailed profiling, you may go to any Citibank branch for a free financial checkup.

If you find out that you are indeed suited for equities, a good strategy is to keep on investing regularly over the years no matter what shape the market is in. This will let you take part in high yields when the market rises from a fall and help you maximize your returns.

But remember, you'll be in for a roller-coaster ride, so brace yourself. Have a safety net and diversify your investments so not all your money is plunked down in the stock market. And periodically review your investment portfolio and rebalance or juggle things around according to your needs and goals.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Nadia 'ready for anything'

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—This word war seems headed for the courts.

Former actress Nadia Montenegro told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on Wednesday she was talking to her lawyers about possibly filing libel charges against TV host Cristy Fermin and the ABS-CBN program "The Buzz."

In the show's Oct. 5 episode, Fermin said Montenegro had given birth about two years ago to a baby girl whose father was not the actress' long-time partner, former Caloocan City mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio.

On Tuesday, Montenegro filed a complaint before the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board against Fermin on account of the "malicious and slanderous" remarks.

In her complaint, Montenegro sought Fermin's suspension from the show, plus penalties for what she deemed were violations of existing broadcast rules. "We don't need to be a lawyer or even a college graduate to figure out what rules were violated here," Montenegro stressed.

Former actress Nadia Montenegro

Gathering evidence

On Wednesday afternoon, censors chief Marissa Laguardia said she had called for a meeting next week with the producers of "The Buzz" and three other board members.

A few hours after, ABS-CBN announced that Fermin had been suspended until the end of the year from "The Buzz" and her daily radio show, "Showbiz Mismo."

Meanwhile, Montenegro said, she has directed her lawyer, Agnes Marana, to gather evidence against Fermin. "It's time she learned her lesson," said the former actress. "Me, I'm ready for anything. At marami na siyang siniraang artista (she has slandered many movie stars)."

Montenegro said Fermin had alluded to her adopted daughter Sofia. With Asistio, Montenegro added, she has an 18-year-old daughter named Alynna.

Friends have been urging her to just sit down with the TV host and discuss the problem, she said, "Pero bakit pa (What for)?"

Should Montenegro proceed with the lawsuit, it wouldn't be Fermin's first. In April, the Supreme Court ordered the TV host—also a tabloid movie columnist and former movie magazine publisher—to pay P1 million in damages and P6,000 in fines to couple Eddie Gutierrez and Anabelle Rama in connection with the libel conviction handed out by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals. The case was filed in 1995. The fine bails out Fermin from the prescribed jail sentence of three months to one year, eight months and 21 days.

"I am not backing down from this fight," Montenegro said. "My kids are in school. Boy and I are still okay. I'm doing this for them."

Edu, Pinky next to get married?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Cheska Garcia and PBA cager Doug Kramer got hitched Oct. 9 at The Blue Leaf Events Pavilion. It was a simple Christian wedding with the reception held at Banyan and Jade Pavilion.

The celebrity guests were Mylene Dizon, Angelu de Leon, JM Rodriguez, Miguel Zubiri, Jackie Forster, LJ Moreno, Miko Palanca, Paolo Araneta, Chris Tiu, Doug's teammates and Richard and Raymond Gutierrez. Jeffrey Hidalgo sang during the rites.

The entourage included Cheska's brothers Patrick and Pichon Garcia, Toni Taus, Liz Uy, Councilor Ian Dy, Danica Pingris and Anne Curtis.

"When they read the vows they wrote for each other, the waterworks started," said the bride's close friend Cutie del Mar. "I knew Doug would be the lucky man because he knew how to handle her."

I remember how Cheska staunchly defended her brother Patrick during the controversial Jennylyn Mercado episode in his life. For sure, she will also stand by her man. The qualities that make Cheska a good sister are the same ones that guarantee she'll be an ideal wife.

Next in line?

Will Edu Manzano and Pinky Webb be the next ones to take the plunge? I sent a text message to Edu to get the real score. He neither confirmed nor denied it. Will they tie the knot or not?

Guess list

While a singer was strutting his stuff on stage, a socialite/model kept yelling at him, "Pay up!" He owes the model and her BF/scion money for branded shoes he got from their boutique. Even if he was on the catwalk, he's no model of reliability. How can he keep his chin up without paying up?

This sexy actress went out of her way to befriend the ex-hubby of her ex-BF's ex-wife. "Bitter pa kasi siya so siguro feel niyang sabay silang nag-e-emote nung ex dyowa ng ex ng ex niya," says a gay insider. Excess baggage weighs her heart down. EXaj!

An award-winning actress was asking guests at a party to describe a veteran actress in one word. Result? A unanimous thumbs-down! Sad that VA spent the best years of her life in show biz, yet her colleagues remember her in the worst way.

Jed sings Italian

Jed Madela is happy that Italians liked his rendition of "Nessun Dorma" when he sang it for a concert crowd... in Italy!

"I was afraid that I might mispronounce the lyrics," Jed recalls. "Thank God, I pulled it off!"

He shares funny anecdotes about the co-stars that he traveled with in Europe for a series of Kapamilya shows:

"Edu Manzano jumped over a fence and wouldn't stop dancing when I played 'Rock with You' on my iPhone. Ai Ai de las Alas kept whining that she couldn't understand what was written on the labels of the toiletries so she was afraid to buy any. Kim Chiu would sigh every time we sat down to a meal, 'Tinapay na naman?' Gerald Anderson has a queer habit of nibbling bottle caps and Jericho Rosales can't stay put."

New prince

Miriam Quiambao was as giddy as a high school girl when she came to my post-birthday dinner. "Kilig ako!" she exclaimed. Looks like a Prince Charming has swept the beauty queen off her feet. "But, despite our failed marriage, I still consider my ex-husband as my best teacher," she says. "He taught me how to love myself more." May the lovable beauty queen never be dethroned from her new prince's heart.

Back to normal

I bumped into my bosom friend Pops Fernandez at the ritzy Members Only club at the Fort. I teased her, "I thought peace na kayo ni Jomari. Why isn't he with you tonight?"

She laughed. "Di ako sanay when you ask me a show biz question, considering how close we are." Then she turned serious. "Jom and I are back to normal. It was our first and hopefully our last major fight. Ako ang nag-inarte!"

'Family Feud'

After portraying various roles on screen, Richard Gomez tries hosting a game show, GMA 7's "Family Feud" (weekdays before "24 Oras"). The long-running and popular game show worldwide invades local prime time TV. Celebrity families will be featured every Monday while non-celebrity families will try to outsmart each other from Tuesday to Friday.

His former political rival Cesar Montano has proven his worth as a game show host in "Singing Bee." Will Goma's new show ignite a healthy feud between them?

RUSHES SPECIAL

Sam-Anne 'breakup'

MANILA, Philippines—Anne Curtis is said to have admitted during a product shoot that she and boyfriend Sam Milby have broke up over a new Star Magic talent, Michaela Milenia.

For a while, there seemed to be an attempt to pooh-pooh the situation by floating word that Sam and Anne really weren't... you know. So confusing. Long live show biz!

Celebrity Bee

From her thwarted try on GMA 7's "Celebrity Duets," Melanie Marquez buzzes over to "The Singing Bee," now re-airing on ABS-CBN. Tomorrow, 7 p.m., Melanie competes with Cherry Pie Picache, Manilyn Reynes, Bangs Garcia, Enchong Dee and Rafael Rosell! On Sunday, the celebrity contestants are Cogie Domingo, Jayson Gainza, DJ Durano, Kaye Abad, Giselle Sanchez, and Ina Raymundo.

'Mother' in Chinatown

Just opened in Chinatown, the 44th Ricky Reyes salon—and of course "Mother" was in red at the inauguration. Among the celebrity guests were singers Jan Nieto and Gian Magdangal, who very ably played Riff in Stages' recent production of "West Side Story."

Sam Milby

For those who didn't see WSS, the good news is, there's a plan to re-stage it next year.

'Hairspray' face-offs

Power singer Dulce marks her 30th year in the biz by taking on the role of Motor Mouth Maybelle in Atlantis Productions' "Hairspray," which runs Nov. 14 to Dec. 7 in Star Theater. The role was played onscreen by Queen Latifah.

Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, who directed Stages' WSS, returns to acting as the villainous Velma Von Tussle, played in the movie by Michelle Pfeiffer.

Nyoy Volante portrays Seaweed J. Stubbs; Leo Rialp, Wilbur Turnblad.

Doing a John Travolta and playing a woman is...Michael de Mesa! Gabe Mercado plays multiple roles as Male Authority Figure; Enchang Kaimo is his equivalent Female Authority Figure. Plus, Noel Rayos returns from Hong Kong Disney to play Corny Collins.

Bobby Garcia, fresh from "Cinderella," directs. After WSS, seems this one is the stage production to watch.

Not a fan

Mark Wahlberg is not a fan of a "Saturday Night Live" sketch from October 4th called "Mark Wahlberg Talks To Animals." In Sunday's NY Post, Wahlberg has a Q&A to promote his upcoming movie "Max Payne," and towards the end is asked what he thought. In the skit, Andy Samberg plays Wahlberg as he talks to a dog, a goat, a chicken and a donkey. It's described on NBC's website as "Barky Bark and the Donkey Bunch." Sample dialogue, "Hey dog, what's up? I like your fur ... say hey to your mother for me."

Wahlberg said of the sketch: "Someone showed it to me on YouTube. It wasn't like Tina Fey doing Sarah Palin, that's for sure. And 'Saturday Night Live' hasn't been funny for a long time. They've asked me to do the show a ton of times. I used to watch it when Eddie Murphy was there and Joe Piscopo and Bill Murray. I don't even know who's on the show now." ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Worried about federalization?
Unsure about your immigration status?
Do you know your options?

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Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Hanging on to power

In 1997, Rep. Jose Zubiri of Bukidnon warned that the campaign of the forces backing then President Fidel V. Ramos to amend the Constitution to extend his term was "a multi-headed hydra. You cut one head off and out comes another." The current campaign to keep President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in power beyond 2010 is also like the hydra.

The latest attempt to start the campaign in Congress was made recently by Rep. Adam Relson Jala of Bohol, an ally of President Arroyo, who filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking a ruling on the constitutionality of the procedures in amending the Constitution. The Court last week threw out the petition for being premature. But we can never be sure that another attempt would not be made by the pro-Arroyo forces to pave the way for the amendment of the Constitution through a constituent assembly.

The President has said time and again that she will not run for president once her term of office expires in 2010. But she has not said anything about aspiring for the position of prime minister in the event that the form of government is changed.

The Arroyo campaign for Charter change started in 2006, with a people's initiative that supposedly collected the signatures of more than six million voters. The Supreme Court rejected by a vote of 8-7 the people's initiative to revise the Constitution, saying that allowing a petition that had been "propelled by deceptively gathered signatures to alter basic principles in the Constitution is to allow a desecration of the Constitution."

Just last August, there was a huge outcry over the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) that would have created an independent Bangsamoro state in Mindanao. Fortunately, the plot to dismember the nation was exposed in time, and the Supreme Court stopped the signing of the MOA-AD in Kuala Lumpur. The MOA-AD would have entailed the amendment of the Constitution, and opened the way for the introduction of other amendments, including one that would change the form of government to parliamentary and allow Ms Arroyo to stay in power beyond 2010.

Recently, pro-Charter-change legislators rode on a measure filed by Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. pushing for a federal form of government. Pimentel later said that it would be impossible for Ms Arroyo to extend her term through the constituent assembly because the Senate and the House would vote separately on constitutional amendments.

Going by past experience, Ms Arroyo will not stop at anything to remain in power. But the nation cannot afford to see a repeat of what happened in 1972 when President Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law and began what appeared to be a perpetual rule until the EDSA People Power I uprising stopped him in his tracks.

No one has a monopoly of the skills and competencies needed to lead our nation. The 1987 Constitution was worded precisely to prevent anyone from getting a perpetual lock on the highest position of leadership. In the face of the intensifying efforts of the pro-Arroyo forces, it's high time the people spoke up and opposed her attempt to stay in power beyond 2010.

Now's the time

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Christy Arciaga is anxious. "My employer [a businessman in Singapore] would turn on the television every morning to check the latest stock market report even before breakfast. He is often angry and tells me he might send me home before my contract ends. What about my family? Two of my children are still in college."

Myra Catacutan feels the same way. Recently she heard her employer in hysterics. "She was shouting to the one on the other line: 'Give me back my money!' When she turned to me, she was teary eyed and told me she could lose a big amount. I am worried that she might let me go."

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration lists 91,411 Filipino maids, most of them working in Hong Kong and the Arab countries. That is probably a tremendously gross underestimation, given the number of illegal Filipino maids in those countries. And they will be first in the line of fire from the crisis. "In times of economic slump, the first thing that governments do is crack down on undocumented workers because they are seen as a burden on the economy and a problem to society," says a migrant official.

I had been wondering for some time now when this story would come out in the papers. That is so because for some time now the various analyses and/or predictions about how the global financial crisis would affect us have not dwelled on this at length. They have mentioned it in passing, but they have not paused to say that this is the one thing to truly worry about. I'm not an economist—a profession that has taken a beating in recent weeks, its status now reduced to several notches above the clergy whose predictive capabilities are suspect and whose most useful response to impending disaster is prayer—but I've always thought that overseas Filipino workers' (OFWs') work was the most obvious area where the financial crisis stood to ravage us.

The financial crisis is also an economic crisis, and by no means an ordinary one. It's the worst to hit the world since the Great Depression of the 1930s. With the world economy going on a slump along with the American one, can it be so hard to see that it will take its toll on jobs in every country except the most God-forsaken ones? And with the toll on jobs, a toll as well on hired labor from overseas which is dependent on those jobs? Indeed, is it so hard to imagine the unimaginable, which is that as the recession kicks in and the jobless are forced to contemplate jobs they had not before thought contemplatable, they will resent the "outsiders" who currently hold those jobs?

Lest we think this is an extreme scenario, well, only a couple of months ago "people in the know" thought a Wall Street crash was an extreme scenario. In January this year, when I started writing about a possible Great Depression Part II, Condoleezza Rice was still assuring world leaders at Davos that the US economy would bounce back from a recession. A sentiment echoed by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. That prompted me to comment then: "The same Rice who, along with Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld deliberately and systematically lied to the American public about Iraq." A trait, I said, that she shared with Arroyo.

There is reason to worry. When the 1997 financial crisis hit Asia, many local businessmen went bankrupt, seeing their debts balloon overnight to astronomical heights. Of course, we weren't pummeled as hard as other Asian countries, because we were too poor and too backward to be so. But we were hurt. The Asian financial crisis is nothing compared to the current one, and we did not have the scale of overseas workers then that we do now. Upon those overseas workers rests the survival of this country, proof of it being that they've managed to keep this country from going under all these years despite a burden of pillage not seen since Ferdinand Marcos' time.

To ignore blithely the dangers that face our OFWs today, that is to be irresponsible. To insist a la John McCain that our economic fundamentals are sound while everything around us is falling apart—and in any case, what fundamentals?—the only fundamental government had going for it was to fundamentally sponge on the OFW cash remittances—that is suicidal. To mouth such inanities as that we will weather the storm because the Filipino is a born fighter like Manny Pacquiao, that is criminal.

On Jan. 29, in a column titled, "War president," I said this: "In the direst times, when in war against want or an aggressor, you do not need a mechanic, you need a visionary. You do not need a mapmaker, you need a guide. You do not need someone who has the ability to conspire, you need someone who has the capacity to inspire.

"At the very least, you need someone who has some measure of credibility. That is so because the one thing you need to do in the direst times is to unite the people, to rally rich and poor behind a vision, to unleash a nation's energy toward a common goal, specifically survival. You can't ask people to make the greatest sacrifices to battle want and hunger when they see you and your husband skimming off the fat of the land. Or adding another term to an already purloined one."

I say that with even more conviction today. We can't have any direr time than today, and we can't need a leader we can trust more than today. Our survival depends upon it. Certainly we do not need a leader we have known only to lie to us. Certainly we do not need a leader we can depend on only to lie to us. Certainly we do not need a leader we can be absolutely sure will only lie to us. This is a case where ignorance is not bliss; this is a case where ignorance kills. What we do not know can hurt us, and hurt us fatally.

We need a leader we can trust. We need a leader we can believe in. We need a leader we can follow.

We do not need that tomorrow. We need that today.

The education of Hidalgo

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Two decades ago, I visited the archives of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid in the hope of finding the academic records of Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo. Their grades were secondary; what I wanted to know was what subjects they took and who their teachers were. I wanted to know what kind of education coupled with talent produced these two painters, the shining stars of Philippine art.

Unfortunately, historical research is hit or miss. Sometimes you hit the jackpot (lots of documents nobody else has seen or used before) or, if you are truly unlucky, as I was that day, you find nothing. I went through 10 big boxes of documents and found no reference to Luna and Resurreccion. I did not find the other Filipinos, like Esteban Villanueva, Miguel Zaragoza, not even Melecio Figueroa. But then as the late Salvador Laurel used to say, "Patience is bitter but its fruit is sweet." In the last box was the biggest surprise of all: Jose Rizal's application letter to the Academy of Fine Arts. It was not what I was looking for, but it made all my efforts worthwhile.

What could not be found in the archives was provided by Hidalgo in a letter written from Madrid on Oct. 15, 1879 to his friends Rizal and Glicerio Anson in Manila. Here he described a typical day in the Academy of San Fernando:

"Our professor in the class of ancient painting and drapery from 8 to 10 in the morning is Mr. Espalter; in that of coloring and composition from 10 to 12, Mr. Federico Madrazo; in that of pictorial anatomy from 1 to 2 in the afternoon, Mr. Ignacio Llanos; and in that of the [still life] or natural from 6.30 to 8.30 in the evening, Mr. Carlos Ribera."

Hidalgo worked eight hours a day, broken only by a long siesta after lunch. From the names of his professors, someone should do research in 19th century Spanish painting to see what influences these teachers left on Hidalgo's art.

He wrote further:

"They are all very good professors, but you can be very sure that what you can study [in Manila] under Mr. Agustin Saez is exactly the same as what is taught here, neither more nor less, with the difference that there you paint and draw much more comfortably than we do here, because there you have the entire hall at your disposal, while we here can hardly pick up a bad corner, often enveloped in darkness, and we have to stretch our necks to see the model who, parenthetically speaking, is almost always quite poor, though very suitable for the study of the deviations of the human form."

Resurreccion advised Rizal and Anson: "Do not lose your courage and follow the advice of our dear professor, Agustin Saez, and in that way you will advance greatly in such a difficult study as that of painting."

If further proof is needed that Hidalgo was trained very well in Manila, he was disappointed with school and his classmates. Coming from the colony he felt inferior at first, a "probinsyano" [provincial] in a great capital, but "upon seeing here the work of the students of the Academy, we lost our fear. On the other hand, we were greatly disenchanted because we would have liked to have as classmates people who have more mettle than the ones now attending the school for they would have served as stimulus to us."

Whatever disappointment he had with his formal schooling was made up for by living in the capital and being exposed to the Museo del Prado: "I do not want to tell you about the Museum because I have no more time. I will only tell you that it contains the most valuable collection of paintings, more than 3,000, that is found in Europe. One leaves that building with a headache and despair in the soul, because one is convinced of the little he knows, that one is not even an atom compared with the colossi of art."

Like Luna, who left Madrid for Rome to work with his teacher Alejo Vera, Hidalgo joined the company of Spanish painters in the Eternal City. It was in Rome that he was immersed in the history and stories of ancient Rome, thus producing "Virgenes Cristianas Expuestas al Populacho" ["Christian Virgins Exposed to the Mob"], which won a silver medal in the 1884 Madrid Exposition of Fine Arts. In the same Exposition, Luna was awarded the gold medal for "Spoliarium." From then on Hidalgo would always be a quiet shadow to Luna.

From then on, according to our textbooks, Luna and Hidalgo became the first international Filipino painters. Then, as now, they made us feel good as a people, like Manny Pacquiao winning in the boxing ring.

However, we have to rein in our enthusiasm and remember that these gold and silver medals should not be seen as Olympic gold, silver and bronze medals. Luna did not win "first place" and Hidalgo, "second place." Luna garnered one gold medal out of the three that were given out that year. He was not awarded the much-coveted Medal of Honor, which was withheld in 1884. Hidalgo won one silver medal out of at least 15 given out that year.

Still, for these two colonials from Manila to beat their classmates, and their professors, in Madrid means a lot, and their life and work should not remain as footnotes in our history. Luna and Hidalgo should continue to inspire even in the 21st century.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

Baby Mikaela with Mommy Melanie. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guests join the Rabago family in helping Baby Mikaela blow out the candles on her birthday cake.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guests of Mikaela line up at the buffet table.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mikaela Alexia Q. Rabago celebrated her first birthday last Oct. 11 at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel. With her are parents Mark and Melanie and older sister Maxine.

Kids had a grand time with the games organized by Hapi The Clown. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Devotees of the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary at the 14 Stations of the Cross in Dandan gather for a picture in this file photo. People are invited to the Annual Feast and 24th Anniversary of the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary today, Saturday, at 3pm. The Eucharistic celebration will be at 3:30pm and to be followed by procession and entertainment.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Modesta Agulto Bartolo
Better known as: "Betang and Betty"
Was called to her eternal rest
in the grace of our Lord on Sunday,
October 12, 2008, at the CHC at the age of 53.
Born: November 4, 1954
Died: October 12, 2008
She now joins her:
Parents: Tomas C. Agulto & Ana B. Agulto
Sister: Maria B. Agulto
Brothers: Pedro B. Agulto, Jesus B. Agulto
Niece: Katherine A. Deleon Guerrero
Brother-in-Law: Francisco A. Masga,
Jesus A. Masga
Sister-in-Law: Francisca M. Reyes,
Sabina A. Masga,
Carmen A. Masga
She is survived by her :
Husband: Pedro Calma Bartolo
Children and Family:
Arlene A. Masga /Anson Olebuu
(Anson Jr.)
Erica M. /Carlito Dl. Trinidad
(Gavin Thomas, Erili Mae)
Former Husband and Family: Jesus A. Masga
& Guohua Z. Masga (Joseph)
Brother/Sister/In-laws:
Dolores M. Agulto & Family
Eloy S. & Dolores A. Inos & Family
Jose B. & Francine M. Agulto & Family
Nicolasa S. Masga & Family
Joe A. Reyes & Darlene Duenas & Family
She is additionally survived by numerous nieces and
nephews, godchildren, cousins and friends.
Nightly Mass will be offered every night at St. Jude Church at
6:00 p.m. beginning October 14, 2008 to October 19, 2008.
The Holy Rosary will follow immediately. Last respects will be paid
on October 20, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. at St. Jude Church. The Mass will
be at 11:00 a.m. Burial will immediately follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

YoungStyle

Election issues: Education

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Q. What should the government do to make schools better?

If you're in public school, then you're a part of a huge national experiment in education.

It is called No Child Left Behind, and President Bush started it in 2002 to make sure that schools were doing a better job of educating kids. Whether that experiment continues will be decided by the next president.

The government offers free education to every child, but not all public schools are equally good. Many of the most troubled schools have students from the poorest families. Bush said it wasn't fair that those kids weren't getting a good education.

No Child Left Behind ordered schools to change many things. The most controversial change was forcing kids to take standardized tests as a way of measuring if they were learning more.

Some teachers say the program helped them focus better on needy kids. But many others said kids were spending too much time taking tests and not enough time learning.

There are other educational issues for the next president to consider: Should the government pay for all kids to go to pre-kindergarten? If a school isn't doing a good job, should parents make the government pay for their kids to go to a private school? (This is called the voucher system.)

No Child Left Behind ordered schools to change many things. The most controversial change was forcing kids to take standardized tests as a way of measuring if they were learning more.

The public school system is supposed to give every child a chance to succeed. How it works is one of the country's most important issues. Either Sen. Barack Obama or Sen. John McCain will have a big say in the future of education, which means he'll have a big say in your future.

MCCAIN

How should No Child Left Behind change? Called it "a good program" that should be continued and improved. Specifically:

■ Would make school choice and tutoring available to kids sooner. Pledged $750 million to create more online schools.

■ Would continue standardized testing program.

Vouchers: Supports. Says parents in poorly run schools should have a choice.

Pre-kindergarten: Says there already are enough programs but they need to be managed better.

In their own words: "The No Child Left Behind Act may have some flaws associated with it, but I still view it as a major milestone in trying to improve education in this country."

OBAMA

How should No Child Left Behind change? Wants to make major changes. Specifically,

■ Would change the way student progress is measured, so it doesn't depend only on standardized tests.

■ Wants to make room for more non-core subjects such as art and music.

Vouchers: Opposes. Says government money should go to public, not private, schools.

Pre-kindergarten: Proposes an $18 billion plan that would encourage, but not require, pre-kindergarten for all children.

In their own words: "Don't tell us that the only way to teach a child is to spend most of the year preparing him to fill in a few bubbles on a standardized test."

Where kids stand on education

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Kids spend a lot of time at school—learning not just what's in their textbooks but also about respect, self-confidence and achievement. Here's what kids in sixth through eighth grades had to say about their schools.

Getting good grades is important to me: 88 percent

Tests are an important part of my education: 78 percent

At school I am encouraged to be creative: 67 percent

Teachers care about my problems and feelings: 57 percent

My classes help me understand what is happening in everyday life: 45 percent

School is boring: 42 percent

Source: *2006 survey of almost 62,000 students from 18 states done by Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations of Portland, Maine.*

How are black holes formed?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

So, what exactly are black holes?

For starters, they aren't really holes. And they aren't really empty. They are places in space that have so much gravity that they suck up everything—including gases—around them.

Black holes work a bit like a vacuum. But instead of using suction, the invisible force called gravity pulls matter inside them. Gravity basically causes an attraction between any two things, pulling them together. It's what keeps our feet planted firmly on Earth.

Here's the thing about black holes at which scientists marvel: The gravity of a black hole is so strong that nothing can escape from it—not even light. And light moves faster than anything in the universe.

BLACK HOLES FACT

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The famous physicist Stephen Hawking proved that black holes don't live forever because they evaporate. The stuff inside is thrown back into space.

How fast does light travel? It moves at 186,000 miles per second. So what scientists call a light-year is 5 trillion, 865 billion, 696 million miles!

Nobody has ever seen a black hole, simply because light gets trapped inside. (That's how they get their name; remember black is the absence of reflected light.) Astronomers detect them by the way the stuff in the universe around black holes behaves.

Scientists believe that black holes are created in areas of the universe where a huge amount of material gets squished into a very small space.

That can happen when giant stars burn out and explode—creating what is called a supernova—and then collapse in on themselves. And it can happen in the center of large galaxies.

Black holes come in different sizes. Some are thought to be the size of a penny or even smaller. That doesn't mean that the material drawn in it was small. Inside the black hole, the material is squashed until it is incredibly dense, or compact.

Black holes work a bit like a vacuum. But instead of using suction, the invisible force called gravity pulls matter inside them.

Others are believed to be vast, holding as much matter as 100 million suns or more. Astronomers think such humongous black holes are at the center of galaxies.

Our own Milky Way galaxy is believed to have a black hole at its center. But astronomers say it is highly unlikely that a black hole would wander into our part of the galaxy. And our own sun could never become one, because stars have to be much larger to turn into supernovas.

Sometimes it pays not to be the biggest thing in the universe!

A sporting way to pinch pennies

Everyone seems to be talking about money these days. The prices of many things that families buy, such as food and milk, are up. Because they don't have as much money as before, many families may have to be careful about how they spend their money for the next year or more.

What does this have to do with kids who like sports? Shouldn't adults worry about money while kids just have fun?

That's how it is most of the time. But when times are tough and money is tight, even kids can help their families. Here are some things that sports kids can do.

Take care of your sports equipment. Basketballs, soccer cleats, baseball gloves and lacrosse sticks all cost money. Always put all your sports stuff in a safe, dry place after you're finished playing. Don't leave your equipment outside overnight where it could be lost or damaged. That way your family won't have to buy new equipment as often.

When you do buy new sports equipment, stay away from the high-priced, fancy stuff. The Jordan AJF 3s look real cool, but they can cost more than $140. You can get basketball shoes that are just as good for less than half that price. Anyway, wearing the Nike Kobe III shoes won't make you play like Kobe Bryant.

If you play more than one sport or on more than one team every season, you may want to cut back. Kids' sports teams, and especially travel teams, can be expensive. You may have just as much fun playing on a local recreation league team. And you may become a better player if you concentrate on one sport every season instead of playing several sports at once.

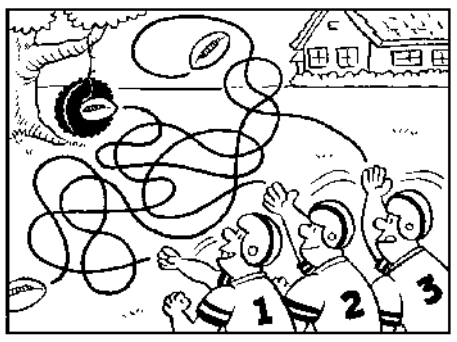
Finally, find less expensive sporting events to attend. Going to big-time pro games is always exciting. But with the price of tickets, sodas and souvenirs, it can cost plenty.

Lots of area college men's and women's teams don't charge kids much to watch their games. And don't forget your local high schools. High school football, soccer and volleyball games are a blast to watch. You can sit close to the action, and some of the players may be from your neighborhood.

So talk to your parents. See if your family needs to save money. If it does, discuss what you can do to help. Families are like sports teams: They work best when everyone pitches in and helps.

By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post

Bowen writes KidsPost's sports opinion column and is an author of sports novels for kids.



THE STARTING QUARTERBACK was decided by the player who first threw a pass through the practice tire. Who was it?

Answer: Player number 2.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

CAPE
CARE
HARE
HERE
HERO

SOME 'QUICK CHANGE' WORD PUZZLES!

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed CAPE to HERO in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. BIRD to HAWK
2. GOAT to BELL
3. PAIN to WELL
4. NOSH to DINE
5. FADE to OUTS

Answers:
1. BIRD, BARD, HARD, HARK, HAWK.
2. GOAT, BOAT, BEAT, BELT, BELL.
3. PAIN, PAIL, PALL, WALL, WELL.
4. NOSH, NOSE, NONE, DONE, DINE.
5. FADE, FATE, FATS, OATS, OUTS.

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A SINGULAR WORD! Can you help Professor Flunkum find the only four-letter word in the English language that, when printed in capital letters, reads the same when turned upside down as it does right side up?

Answer: The word is NOON

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "BEATEN." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.

B		A	N
E	O		
A			E
N	R		D

Answers: (Across): Ban, one, ate, red. (Down): Boar, ante, need.

Dog-proof your home

Q: I have a new puppy, and "Jake" keeps getting into everything—garbage, pantry, laundry, you name it. He's a big chewer, too. How do I get him to stop?—Frank S., via e-mail

A: Regular obedience training, along with increased attention, will help Jake stop exploring so much. However, healthy dogs never lose that urge to explore anything that smells so darn interesting (garbage, laundry, the pantry, you name it). So you've got to limit his access to those areas.

Remove garbage from the living areas of the house every day—place it in the big containers outside (or in your garage) and seal the lid against intrusion. Seal the pantry—if it has no door latch, attach a short bungee cord from the cabinet knob to a screw-in hook you place in the frame, so you can latch and unlatch easily. Put your shoes away in a closet or close your bedroom door.

It's especially important, no matter how well your dog is trained, to not leave anything lying around that you don't want him to get at. Food, alcohol, cigarettes, chocolate, sharp objects or medication are big no-nos.

Do place chew toys around the areas that Jake is allowed to inhabit. This gives him a healthy focus for his natural chewing tendencies.

Now back to the increased attention. Take time every day—an hour at least—to train and play with Jake, outdoors or indoors. Puppies have lots of restless energy, which will fuel their curiosity, so help him work it off. In return, you'll get a much better bond with Jake, and a well-trained dog.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ Unless you're a professional dairy farmer who milks cows on a daily basis, it's unlikely that you're aware of the fact that it takes, on average, 350 squirts to get a gallon of milk.

■ It was American businessman -- and, of course, the inventor of the light bulb -- Thomas Alva Edison, who made the following sage observation: "We don't know a millionth of 1 percent about anything."

■ If you're like the average American, you eat more than 12 pounds of chocolate every year.

■ Experts claim that parts of California are sinking 4 inches every year.

■ The name for that lovely lavender stone, amethyst, is derived from the Greek for "not drunk."

■ The record at hand doesn't go into details about why King Philip I of France was widely known during his reign as "The Amorous," but we can probably imagine.

■ Jewelry lovers, pay attention: Oysters aren't the only creatures with the capability to make pearls. Pearls can come from any mollusk that makes a shell, including mussels, clams, conchs and even land snails.

■ From the files of inexplicable criminal activity: A Virginia man was arrested in 2004 at a Motel 6. His crime? He had smeared the entire room with Vaseline. There were 14 empty tubs of the petroleum jelly found at the scene.

■ The world-famous Caesar salad was actually invented in Tijuana, Mexico.

■ You probably won't be shocked to learn that the sport that is the object of the most online betting is horse racing, followed by soccer. It'll probably come as something of a surprise, though, to find that that most genteel of sports, tennis, ranks third in online betting.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage."—Mark Russell

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MAGIC MAZE ● TOWNS OF THE OLD WEST

S A X V T R P N L J H E N C C
C A M Y W V D O O W D A E D T
H R P A D E N V E R D N N N L
E K I G R E E L C I T B O E A
Y Z X W U I L S R R R P T N T
E O M L M I L E A J I G S E I
N E D A V B H L A Y X W B L H
N U R D S S C N O R R A M I C
E A A Y T I C S E L I M O B I
L E A Y T I C E G D O D T A W
L H T Y T I C A I N I G R I V

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Abilene, Amarillo, Central City, Cimarron, Deadwood, Denver, Dodge City, Hays, Laramie, Leadville, Miles City, Sheridan, Tombstone, Virginia City, Wichita

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		x		25
÷		+		x	
	+		x		21
+		x		+	
	÷		x		12
16		24		19	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

GO FIGURE ANSWER

7	–	2	x	5	25
÷		+		x	
1	+	6	x	3	21
+		x			
9	÷	3	x	4	12
	16		24		

A new way to decorate Halloween pumpkins

Try something new this year, and decorate and "dress" some of your pumpkins and gourds instead of carving them. They will last longer, and all ages can take an active part in creating them.

Wash the pumpkins and gourds, and dry them thoroughly. Let the children search the house for "found" items they can use for decorating: buttons, string, ribbon and bows, hats, sunglasses, construction paper, shiny paper, stickers, cotton balls, candy, doll accessories, dried weeds and flowers, pins, medals, earrings, cardboard tubes or fabric scraps.

Place all collected items on a newspaper-covered work surface. Give each child a pumpkin to decorate. Draw features with markers or paint. Once dry, add hair, beards and accessories by gluing on items or attaching them with straight pins. Carefully poke medals and pierced earrings directly into the pumpkins.

Show off the new members of your family (or decorate a pumpkin to look like you!) by displaying them at your door, on your porch, along a walkway or perched on a tree branch to catch the attention of October guests.

Extra ideas

■ For quick, make-ahead Halloween-themed snacks, scoop orange sherbet in muffin tins. Decorate each large scoop with small candies and trimmed licorice to resemble a jack-o-lantern. Set in the freezer until ready to serve.

■ For lollipop ghosts, loosely drape the center of an opened white paper napkin over a lollipop. Tie with a ribbon where the stick meets the candy. Draw eyes and a mouth with a black marker.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

McCain tries to make peace with Letterman

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—John McCain told David Letterman that "I screwed up" by canceling a "Late Show" appearance three weeks ago, then faced a sharp round of questioning about Sarah Palin and his campaign tactics.

Not willing to risk the wrath of Letterman again, the Republican presidential candidate rented a helicopter to fly to New York after a weather delay grounded his campaign airplane in Philadelphia. He had canceled a Sept. 24 appearance during the brief suspension of his campaign because of the economic crisis, and Letterman has been hammering him ever since.

The band played the Who's "I Can't Explain" as McCain walked onstage at the Ed Sullivan Theater. After he sat down, Letterman asked, "Can you stay?"

"Depends on how bad it gets," McCain answered.

Letterman had replaced McCain with the GOP hopeful's persistent critic, MSNBC's Keith Olbermann, on Sept. 24. Olbermann was waiting in the wings Thursday—and McCain had a pained expression when he noticed that.

Although Letterman said he was "willing to put this behind us," he came after McCain hard with questions. He asked whether Palin was his first choice as vice president.

"Absolutely," McCain answered.

He said he didn't know her well before choosing her, but that he was impressed by her reputation as a reformer.

Letterman repeatedly pressed McCain on her qualifications, asking if he was confident she could lead the country in a time of crisis.

"In all due respect, one of the people I admired most was an obscure governor of a southern state called Arkansas and he turned out to be a fairly successful president," McCain said, complimenting Bill Clinton. "Ronald Reagan was a cowboy, no experience in international affairs. I think she has shown leadership."

AP

In this photo released by CBS, Republican Presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, left, talks with host David Letterman on the set of "The Late Show with David Letterman," Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 in New York.

As Letterman pressed on, McCain asked, "Have we pretty well exhausted this?"

"No, no," Letterman said. "I'm just getting started."

Letterman questioned him about Palin's claim that Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama "palled around with terrorists," and McCain backed her up, saying his opponent need to better explain his relationship with former Weather Underground activist William Ayers.

"Did you not have a relationship with Gordon Liddy?" Letterman asked about Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy.

McCain said he knew him. Then, after a commercial break, McCain said, "I know Gordon Liddy. He paid his debt, he went to prison ... I'm not in any way embarrassed to know Gordon Liddy."

"You understand the same case could be made of your relationship with him as is being made with William Ayers?" Letterman said.

McCain said he has been completely open about his relationship with Liddy.

Letterman appeared to ridicule McCain about the implication that Obama and Ayers had a relationship.

"Are they double-dating, are they going to dinner, what are they doing?" Letterman asked. "Are they driving across country?"

"Maybe going to Denny's," McCain said.

Letterman said that Obama was 8 when Ayers was 29, and McCain appeared exasperated. "There's millions of words said in a campaign. C'mon, Dave," he said.

McCain said he thought Palin would appear on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," where Tina Fey has been doing a dead-on impersonation of her. "Probably get more of an audience than our debate did," he said.

Although Letterman had said he felt like an "ugly date" after McCain's initial cancellation, representatives for the two men never stopped talking about a return date.

While McCain risked a rough appearance—"I haven't had so much fun since my last interrogation," he said—it gave him the chance to show courage in the face of fire. Letterman reaches about 4 million people a night, a number sure to increase with McCain as guest. With clips on the Internet and Friday morning news, countless more people will undoubtedly learn about their encounter.

Biden: McCain 'more angry'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John McCain, angry man?

Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden calls McCain a longtime friend, but he said Thursday the Republican presidential candidate just isn't himself at this stage of the campaign.

"He seems a little more angry than he usually is," Biden told Jay Leno on NBC's "The Tonight Show," after Leno said McCain was making odd facial expressions during his debate Wednesday night with Democrat Barack Obama.

"John doesn't seem comfortable right now," Biden added.

"I don't think John is comfortable with the negative stuff in the advertising" being run by his campaign, Biden said at another point.

Biden, a Delaware senator, made a brief stop on Leno's stage in Burbank on his way to a fundraiser in Los Angeles. The two chatted about the economic crisis, the Iraq war and developments on the campaign trail as Nov. 4 closes in.

Biden has a reputation for verbal gaffes, and he assured Leno he'd be providing more fodder for late-night talk shows. Leno ribbed him about a slip-up at a rally in Ohio on Wednesday, when Biden referred to "a three-letter word: jobs. J-O-B-S."

"I suspect I'll make a whole lot more," Biden said.

He credited Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin with driving up viewership of their debate, the second most-watched political matchup ever.

"I was a bit player in that debate," Biden concluded.

The 65-year-old Biden joked about his age, while poking at McCain, 72, who if elected would become the oldest first-term American president.

"The only guy older than me is John," he said.

Asked about Biden's claim that McCain seemed a bit cranky, McCain campaign spokesman Rick Gorka said, "John McCain is a fighter.

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Max Payne
Friday 4:25 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13 (T)
Synopsis
Max Payne is a maverick cop—a mythic anti-hero—determined to track down those responsible for the brutal murders of his family and partner. Hell-bent on revenge, his obsessive investigation takes him on a nightmare journey into a dark underworld. As the mystery deepens, Max is forced to battle enemies beyond the natural world and face an unthinkable betrayal.

Igor
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Steve Busceni (v), Jay Leno (v)
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG (T)
Synopsis
In a land of mad scientists and diabolical inventions, what do you do when you're born with a hunch on your back? You become an Igor. A twist on the classic monster movie, that tells the story of one Igor—who's sick of being a lowly lab assistant with a "Yes Master's" degree—and dreams of becoming a scientist. When his cruel master kicks the bucket a week before the annual Evil Science Fair, Igor finally gets his chance.

★ ★ ★

Body of Lies
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:20
Leonardo DiCaprio, Russel Crowe
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R
Synopsis
Roger Ferris is the best man U.S. Intelligence has on the ground, in places where human life is worth no more than the information it can get you. In operations that take him around the globe, Ferris' next breath often depends on the voice at the other end of a secure phone line—CIA veteran Ed Hoffman. Strategizing from a laptop in the suburbs, Hoffman is on the trail of an emerging terrorist leader who has orchestrated a campaign of bombings while eluding the most sophisticated intelligence network in the world.

The Express
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13 (T)

Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG (T)

Quarantine
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:15
Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13 (T)

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13 (T)

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Gale Harold improves after bike accident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Officials at a Los Angeles hospital say "Desperate Housewives" actor Gale Harold is improving after suffering serious injuries in a motorcycle accident.

Officials at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center said Thursday evening that Harold is under observation in the intensive care unit.

The actor had swelling on the brain and a fractured shoulder but is expected to recover. Officials say he will be transferred to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center when a bed becomes available.

Harold plays the boyfriend of Teri Hatcher's character on the ABC show. He was injured Tuesday.

In this photo released by ABC, actor Gale Harold is shown in a scene from "Desperate Housewives."

AP

3rd presidential debate watched by 56.5 million

NEW YORK (AP)—The third and final presidential debate drew nearly as many viewers as the second, even with major league baseball as its TV competition.

A total of 56.5 million viewers watched Wednesday's debate in Hempsted, N.Y., between Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain, Nielsen Media Research said Thursday.

That figure represents the collective audience for 11 networks. But Fox wasn't one of those networks, skipping debate coverage to air what turned out to be the final game of the National League Championship Series as the Philadelphia Phillies moved on to the World Series.

Nielsen tallied viewership for Wednesday's debate on ABC, CBS, NBC, Telemundo, Univision, BBC-America, CNBC, CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC and MUN2.

On Oct. 7, a total of 63.2 million viewers watched the second debate, while the candidates' first faceoff on Sept. 26 was seen by 52.4 million viewers. More than 70 million saw Sen. Joe Biden and Gov. Sarah Palin's sole meeting on Oct. 2. Fox was among the networks airing those debates.

Diana Ross to headline Nobel concert

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Diana Ross will headline artists performing at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert in honor of the 2008 laureate, Finnish peace mediator Martti Ahtisaari, organizers said Thursday.

The show's hosts, generally Hollywood superstars, are to be announced next week. Last year's show was hosted by Uma Thurman and Kevin Spacey.

The list for the Dec. 11 concert also includes Canadian singer Feist, American country singer Dierks Bentley, Mexican singer-songwriter Julieta Venegas, Nigerian star Seun Kuti, and Norway's popular singer-songwriter Marit Larsen.

"The Nobel Committee is thrilled to welcome such an impressive array of mindful and talented artists to help us spread the message of peace around the world," said Geir Lundestad, nonvoting secretary of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. "It promises to be a spectacular evening and we encourage everyone to tune in and join us."

Ross was married to a Norwegian, the late Norwegian millionaire Arne Naess Jr., from 1985 until their divorce in 2000. They had two children. Naess died in a mountain climbing accident in 2004.

The concert is held a day after the Dec. 10 Nobel awards ceremony.

AP

In this Monday, April 28, 2008 file photo, singer Diana Ross attends a Cinema Society screening of "Iron Man" in New York.

Former Finnish President Ahtisaari won the prize for his peace efforts on several continents over several decades.

Both sides rest in Spears driving case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears did not appear at her driver's license trial Thursday. Instead, her father did the talking.

Spears' defense consisted solely of the testimony of Jamie Spears, who told jurors his daughter intends to return to Louisiana once she has custody of her children. The singer's attorney, J. Michael Flanagan, said in his opening statement that she was exempt from having a California driver's license because she didn't meet residency requirements.

On cross-examination, however, Jamie Spears acknowledged that his daughter got married, had two children and divorced in California.

Both sides rested their cases Thursday afternoon and jurors will return for deliberations Friday morning.

Throughout the day Thursday, the possibility of the 26-year-old testifying during the trial remained. That prospect was quashed Thursday afternoon when Flanagan asked Jamie Spears whether he would allow his daughter to take the stand.

"No," he replied.

The singer's trial on a misdemeanor count of driving without a valid license began with jury selection Wednesday. The case is the last remnant of an August 2007 incident in which Spears was photographed hitting a parked car and leaving the scene.

While Spears settled a hit-and-run charge, Flanagan rejected a plea deal that prosecutors offered Spears on the driving-without-a license charge because he said Spears did not want a criminal record.

Prosecutors relied on testimony from Jamie Spears and two witnesses, a Department of Motor Vehicles investigator and a paparazzo assigned to Britney Spears around-the-clock, to build their case that the singer's home is in Los Angeles. The paparazzo, Sondro Rodregues, told jurors Britney Spears spends roughly 80 percent of her time in the area.

Flanagan tried to establish that Los Angeles is a temporary home for Britney Spears and that she will likely leave once she has custody of her young sons. Ex-husband Kevin Federline currently has full custody of the couple's children, and Spears remains under the conservatorship of her father, who controls the singer's personal and financial affairs.

Flanagan gave jurors three examples of her ties to Louisiana: she is registered to vote there; she takes a homestead exemption on her property taxes there and until late last year, she had a Louisiana driver's license.

Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney Michael Amerian chipped away at those ties, however, including revealing that Spears' voting registration in Louisiana had lapsed due to inactivity. He then introduced divorce records that Spears signed in 2006 and a couple weeks before the hit-and-run accident that stated, under penalty of perjury, that she lived in California.

Spears' fate will be decided by a jury of eight women and four men.

Once a jury was seated, the case barreled forward, with Amerian spending two minutes to give his opening statement. He called the case "very straightforward."

Couple balks at contributing to money manager's cause

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Our financial adviser, "Wally," who has managed our finances for a number of years, sent us a letter asking us to donate to a charity he is starting.

We feel like we are being held hostage because he knows how much money we have and how we spend it. We feel Wally has crossed the line of professionalism. What do you think, and what should we do?

SOLICITED IN OHIO

DEAR SOLICITED: You are entitled to your feelings, and here's how to handle it. Write Wally a small check for his new charity and enclose with it a short note wishing him success with his newfound cause. Close by telling him that everyone has causes that are close to their hearts—including you and your husband—and because you know this one is important to him, you are sending him a ONE-TIME donation. If he solicits you after that, find another financial adviser.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15 and live with my mom. We often paint our nails. The problem is, my mom shakes the nail polish worse than anyone. I heard recently that shaking a bottle of nail polish creates air bubbles and makes the polish thinner. (This came from a professional manicurist.) But my mom won't believe me. She thinks this professional is crazy. Can you please tell everyone that there is a reason why you never see manicurists shake their bottles? It's a horrible habit, and it drives me nuts.

PEEVED IN GREENVILLE, N.C.

DEAR PEEVED: Before judging your mother so harshly, you might be wise to talk to more than one professional manicurist about what causes bubbles. I have seen many professional manicurists shake the bottles of polish before applying it to their clients. And I have been told that applying polish that is not fresh, or applying it too thickly can cause it to bubble.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: The letters I see you print about "acts of kindness" always give me a lift, so I thought I'd tell you about mine.

I was nine months pregnant and had a few errands to run—taking some clothes to the Laundromat, cashing my husband's paycheck, etc.

While I was transferring my laundry from the washing machine to the dryer, I turned around to find that my purses, detergent and a magazine I had been reading were all missing. I frantically searched everywhere, including the trash bins inside and outside. Because I had just cashed the paycheck, the thieves got away with almost $600 in cash.

A woman who had just walked in and witnessed my frantic search, came over and handed me $20 to "get by." Being stressed out and hormonal, I was floored by her kind gesture and started to cry. She gave me a big hug, and her kindness got me through the day.

I went into labor that night and gave birth to a gorgeous baby girl. I will never forget the woman's gentle nature, or the fact that even though I was victimized by someone who couldn't miss the fact that I was extremely pregnant, I also encountered an act of kindness. I hope she knows what a difference she made and that I still remember her, 15 years later.

CHRISTY IN GREELEY, COLO.

DEAR CHRISTY: Considering the fact that you not only got a hug and $20, but also a priceless bundle of joy from heaven, I'd have to say you came out a winner that day, wouldn't you?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

FEELING ANY BETTER THIS MORNING, CALVIN?
NO.
I GUESS I'D BETTER MAKE YOU AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DOCTOR.
OK.
IT'S SATURDAY, BY THE WAY. YOU WON'T MISS SCHOOL.
I KNOW.
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WATTERSON
10/18

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

REMEMBER MY OLD GIRLFRIEND BABETTE?
I'M NOT SURE
BI-OI DAVIS '08
www.garfield.com
I THINK SHE WAS ON THE REBOUND
OH, YEAH...
SHE WORE THAT OIL PAINTING OF HER EX-BOYFRIEND AROUND HER NECK
BIGGEST LOCKET I EVER SAW

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

10/16
Adam's HOME OFFICE MONEY-SAVING TIPS
DON'T PART WITH YOUR "OLD" COMPUTER QUITE YET.
IT MAY BECOME A COLLECTOR'S ITEM SOONER THAN YOU KNOW, AND SOME COMPUTER NERD WILL WANT TO BUY IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, BUB! STOP KICKING MY SEAT!
I CAN'T HELP IT. I HAVE RESTLESS LEG SYNDROME.
OH YEAH? WELL I HAVE RESTLESS FIST SYNDROME!
THAT CURED IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

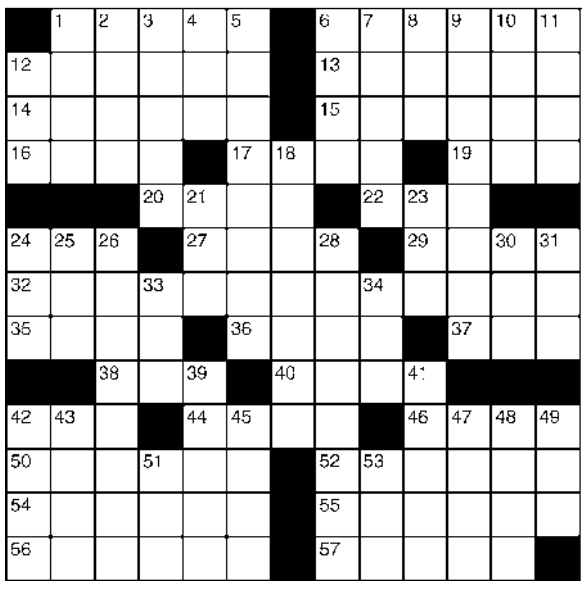
ACROSS
1 Noted pepper-picker
6 Bahamas capital
12 Bun seed
13 Conditions of hatred
14 Pay
15 Majority sentiment
16 Initial stake
17 Memo acronym
19 Curvy character
20 Grand story
22 Anderson's "High —"
24 Erstwhile acorn
27 Vaccine type
29 "Typee" sequel
32 Useless gift
35 Apiece
36 Ms. Moore
37 Trawler gear
38 St. Bernard's burden
40 Yuletide refrain
42 Apply lightly
44 Portent
46 Writer Kingsley
50 Delphi priestess
52 Shrewd
54 Opulence
55 Ornamental flower
56 Washington city
57 Sabers' cousins

DOWN
1 Drudge
2 Fails to be
3 Check recipient
4 Ostrich's kin
5 Good as new
6 PBS science show
7 Take as one's own
8 Pack quantity
9 Metropolis VIP
10 Andy's buddy
11 Ltr. deliverers
12 Hot tub
18 Type of triangle
21 "The Raven" versifier
23 La-la lead-in
24 Have debts
25 "Eureka!"
26 Rebate
28 Summertime quaff
30 Inseparable
31 Mel of Cooperstown
33 Commonest English word
34 Chart format
39 Automaton
41 Woodshop machine
42 Hunky- —
43 Met melody
45 Arizona city
47 Stubborn one
48 "How sweet —!"
49 Neptune's realm
51 Actor McBride
53 Potential syrup

Solution time: 27 mins.

R	O	M	■	R	O	W	S	■	H	A	L	O
A	L	I	■	E	B	O	N	■	O	D	O	R
J	A	L	A	P	E	N	O	■	V	O	T	E
A	N	K	I	F	S	■	W	F	F	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	■	E	■	J	A	L	O	P	Y
S	O	D	A	S	■	F	O	R	■	L	E	O
U	K	E	S	■	B	O	B	■	S	I	N	K
B	R	A	■	S	E	X	■	A	N	O	D	E
J	A	L	E	E	L	■	E	R	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	G	A	L	■	L	I	F	E	R	S
F	R	O	G	■	J	A	L	O	U	S	I	E
E	U	R	O	■	A	M	E	S	■	P	T	A
B	E	A	N	■	R	U	N	E	■	Y	E	T

Yesterday's answer 10-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carly Schroeder, 18; Wynton Marsalis, 47; Vincent Spano, 46; Jean-Claude Van Damme, 48

Happy Birthday: Plan a trip or take a course that will expand your mind and lead to new friends. Boredom is your enemy. This is a year of expansion, change and personal growth. Shoot for the stars and refuse to let anyone slow you down. Take advantage of every opportunity offered. Your numbers are 10, 17, 23, 25, 28, 32, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Travel to visit someone with whom you have something in common. An interested party may want to partner with you, leading to the development of an idea you've wanted to pursue for some time. Combine business with pleasure. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): An interesting discussion with one of your peers will inspire you to finish something you started a long time ago. Revive a connection with someone from your past. Sharing your thoughts will lead to a successful plan. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Love is hot and containing your feelings and excitement will be difficult, so why bother. Instead, let whoever it is who rocks your world know how you feel. An idea will inspire you to make personal and vocational changes. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Being able to adapt to the changes going on around you will lead to your success. You will make others feel comfortable if you are confident and secure in all that you do. You can demonstrate your ability to handle even the toughest situation. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your popularity will mount if you give back to an organization that has helped you in the past. However, don't give handouts to someone who is giving you a sob story or asking you to pay for him or her. Be fair but avoid being used. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Being productive will enhance your chance of getting ahead professionally and financially. Love or friendship is likely to develop with someone you meet while traveling or engaged in a social event. Put worries aside and enjoy the moment. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take on a new interest or hobby to take your mind off your troubles. A short trip will give you time to think and greater insight. Once you make a decision, act on it. Don't procrastinate. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Renovate, fix up or do a real estate search. You can increase the value of your assets by being creative. An inheritance, rebate, surrender, settlement or even coming into money or gifts is apparent. Don't be fooled by a smooth talker. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be in an amorous mood but that doesn't mean your partner or the person you are pursuing will be. Patience will be required. A dilemma an older associate creates will have to be dealt with swiftly. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Property investments will pay back handsomely. Getting into a moneymaking sideline will help you out financially and also

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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entertain you. Attend a tradeshow, conference or franchise discussion to discover options. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make your home more conducive to the needs of the people living with you, but do not implement your plans yet. It's likely someone will change his or her mind. Others will have valid suggestions and you can make a positive impression on someone who can help you out. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Listen before you barge ahead. Be fair or someone will fight back, asking for more. Rethink your motives. Delays should be anticipated if you are trying to get things done within a partnership or around home. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a broad outlook and are a communicator with a vivid imagination. You are a leader, a traveler and a teacher. You are intuitive and tolerant.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	9							7
				3				8
		5		1		2		
	8	6	5 2		4 6	9	2	
		2		5		6		
8				6				
7							3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	4	2	7	3	5	6	8
6	3	2	8	9	5	7	4	1
8	7	5	1	6	4	3	9	2
3	8	1	7	2	6	9	5	4
2	9	6	4	5	8	1	7	3
5	4	7	9	3	1	2	8	6
4	2	9	3	8	7	6	1	5
7	5	8	6	1	2	4	3	9
1	6	3	5	4	9	8	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VIETNAMESE SHRIMP FARMS **Solution: 6 letters**

S	A	J	O	B	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	P	O
C	R	O	P	P	P	E	N	I	N	S	U	L	A	V
O	E	E	I	G	B	O	A	T	S	T	A	L	E	E
A	A	H	V	D	N	O	P	C	O	B	A	C	R	R
S	S	M	A	I	R	I	I	N	O	N	A	O	H	S
T	T	E	D	A	R	T	S	L	O	P	H	A	P	E
A	N	E	T	T	I	N	G	I	S	S	R	R	R	A
R	E	V	I	L	E	D	T	E	A	V	E	E	O	S
I	M	K	O	S	E	A	R	P	E	R	T	H	S	E
F	T	P	A	E	N	U	A	S	G	E	A	T	P	R
F	S	L	R	R	T	C	T	T	U	R	W	A	E	A
S	E	B	E	N	I	E	C	I	R	P	O	E	R	T
S	V	T	E	F	I	S	H	I	N	G	P	W	I	C
E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	A	L	T	E
I	I	C	I	T	S	E	M	O	D	D	R	A	Y	H

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Area, Boats, Breed, Coast, Crop, Deliver, Domestic, Environmental, Fishing, Global, Growth, Harvest, Hectares, International, Investments, Jobs, Netting, Operations, Overseas, Pacific, Peninsula, Politics, Pond, Price, Prosperity, Raising, Rivers, Sales, Ships, Shore, Space, Supply, Tariffs, Tons, Trade, Ventures, Water, Weather, Yard

Yesterday's Answer: Ethanol

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Boy's jacket is black. 2. "Down" sign is different. 3. Woman's dress is black. 4. "Sale" sign is added. 5. Windows are missing. 6. Woman's hairstyle is different.

Wishing Well®

7	5	7	2	8	2	4	6	5	2	6	4	6
A	T	S	P	C	R	C	S	A	O	P	O	R
3	4	5	4	7	3	4	5	7	6	5	3	6
G	N	K	F	S	U	I	E	I	E	I	E	A
5	3	6	8	3	5	2	6	8	6	8	6	4
N	S	D	L	T	I	F	S	E	M	V	I	D
2	4	5	8	4	3	6	2	4	6	2	4	6
O	E	T	E	N	S	L	U	C	E	N	E	S
2	7	5	4	8	5	7	8	4	2	4	3	2
D	S	I	I	R	A	T	I	N	L	S	A	O
4	2	8	2	8	7	8	7	8	3	5	4	5
E	V	D	E	E	L	A	O	S	R	T	L	I
3	7	5	7	5	7	3	7	4	7	3	7	3
R	V	V	E	E	D	I	O	F	N	V	E	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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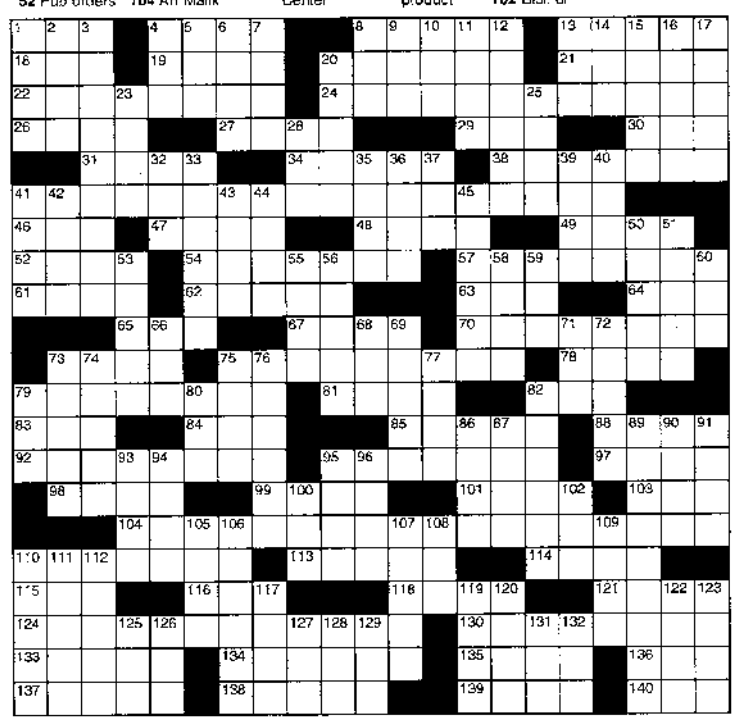
Super Crossword

ART WORK

ACROSS
1 Mushroom part
4 Demonic
8 Vatican-related
13 Heiss on the ice
18 Hasten
19 Pianist Lupu
20 Venus' sister
21 Speak one's mind
22 Art Carney role
24 Art Tatum recording of '49
26 Paper quantity
27 — the Hyena (Capp character)
29 Two — kind
30 Organ of equilibrium
31 South American capital
34 Laotian native
38 Wholly
41 Art Rooney's team
46 Palindromic dictator
47 Wing-ding
48 Croquet arena?
49 Model Carre
52 Pub orders
54 Flask
57 Zimbabwe, formerly
61 Celebratory suffix
62 Alliance
63 Tiriac of tennis
64 81, to Cicero
65 Hosp. areas
67 Stable youngster
70 Casino worker
73 Italian statesman Aldo
75 Art Garfunkel's partner
78 Travelers' aids
79 Food fish
81 Lhasa —
82 Drink like 81 Across
83 Business abbr.
84 Conger or moray
85 "Jeepers!"
88 "Back in the —" ('68 song)
92 Composer Verdi
95 Ms. Van Tassel
97 Yearn
98 "Hook" heavy
99 Chutzpah
101 Watch pts.
103 "Bali —"
104 Art Malik
110 Annoying
113 Depart
114 Tabriz currency
115 Society column word
116 Claire or Balin
118 Bouquet
121 Kite part
124 Art Sansom cartoon
130 Art Fleming hosted it
133 Arrested
134 Hire
135 Mine feature
136 Sportscaster Berman
137 Stout
138 Boca —, FL
139 Kansas city
140 TV chef Martin

DOWN
1 "Dark Lady" singer
2 Helper
3 Gridiron calls
4 Drop a brick
5 Tub
6 Superstar
7 Debussy's "Clair de —"
8 Schoolboy's shot
9 Joan Van —
10 Mile High Center
11 Part of A.D.
12 Permissible
13 Dovecote sound
14 Mil. address
15 More mature
16 Actor Patrick
17 Suspicious (of)
20 Reduce to smithereens
23 Skip
25 Abominate
28 Say please too often?
32 Flavor enhancer
33 Problem solver?
35 Tropical spot
36 — impasse
37 Fresh
39 Walked
40 Ferrara first family
41 Chanteuse Edith
42 Eric of "Nuns on the Run"
43 — Bator
44 Rampur royalty
45 Fermi or Caruso
50 Long Island resort
51 At — and sevens
53 Baby bird?
55 Soybean product
56 "— Gay"
58 It holds plenty!
59 Lennon's widow
60 Tune
65 Caviar
68 Nile slitherer
69 Composer Franz
71 Actress Thurman
72 — New Guinea
73 Frenzied
74 Take place
75 Nest noise
76 Accuse tentatively
77 "Wuthering Heights" setting
79 Russian jet
80 Agt.
82 Head
86 Face, as a flower
87 Move like molasses
89 Academic
90 "The Young Lions" author
91 Harness part
93 Tipplers
94 Canyon sound
95 Swiss artist
96 — breve
100 Shoemaker's tool
102 Biol. or chem.
105 Mideastern title
106 Decathlete Bruce
107 Tower material?
108 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
109 Pro — (proportionately)
110 Foreword, for short
111 Change for the better
112 New Hampshire city
117 Soprano Gluck
119 California resort
120 Try again
122 Concept
123 Actress Fontanne
125 Encore exclamation
126 "— Bad Apple" ('71 song)
127 Select, with "for"
128 — -mo
129 Tons of time
131 Garage supply
132 Child welfare org.



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: What was the name of the treaty that ended the American Revolutionary War?
2. TELEVISION: What was the name of the prison encampment in the series "Hogan's Heroes"?
3. THEATER: Which U.S. president was featured in the musical "Annie"?
4. AD SLOGANS: Which company is part of the following advertising slogan –"Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and ..."?
5. ENTERTAINMENT: In which year did the Miss America pageant begin?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What was the former name of the African nation Burkina Faso?
7. LITERATURE: What was the name of the monster in "Beowulf"?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the names of the stone lions at the entrance of the New York Public Library?
9. INVENTIONS: Who invented the pop-top can?
10. MATH: In geometry, what is the shape of a torus?

Answers

1. Treaty of Paris
2. Stalag 13
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt
4. Chevrolet
5. 1921
6. Upper Volta
7. Grendel
8. Patience and Fortitude
9. Ermal Fraze
10. A doughnut or an inner tube

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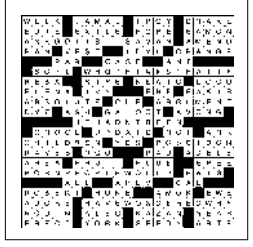
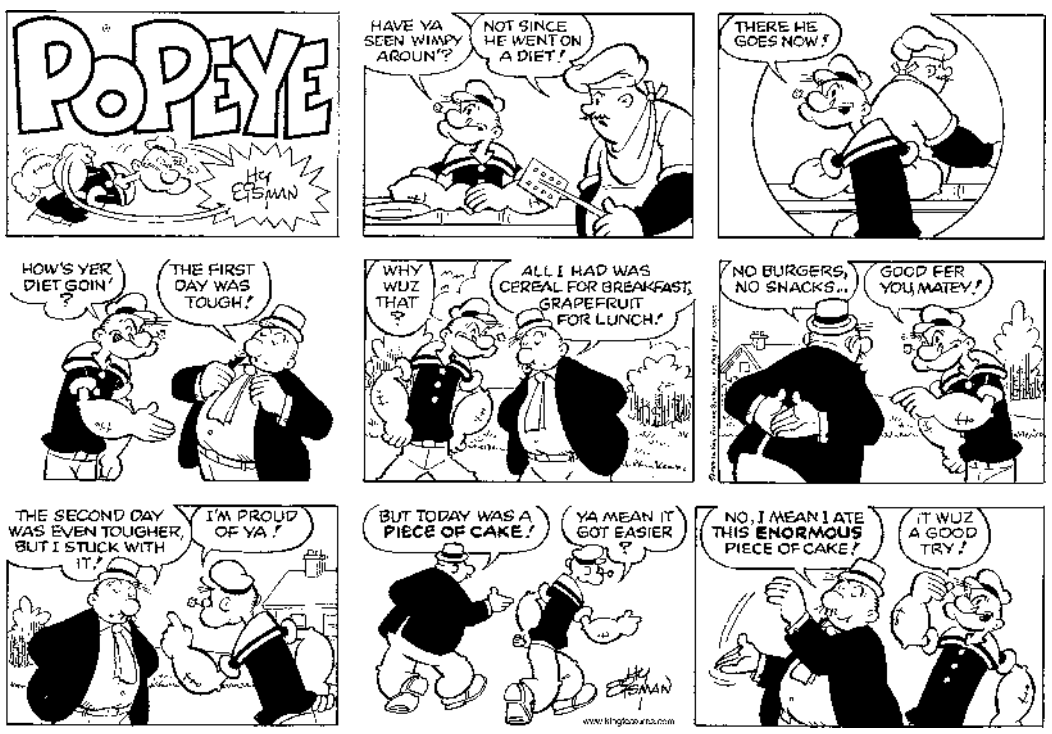
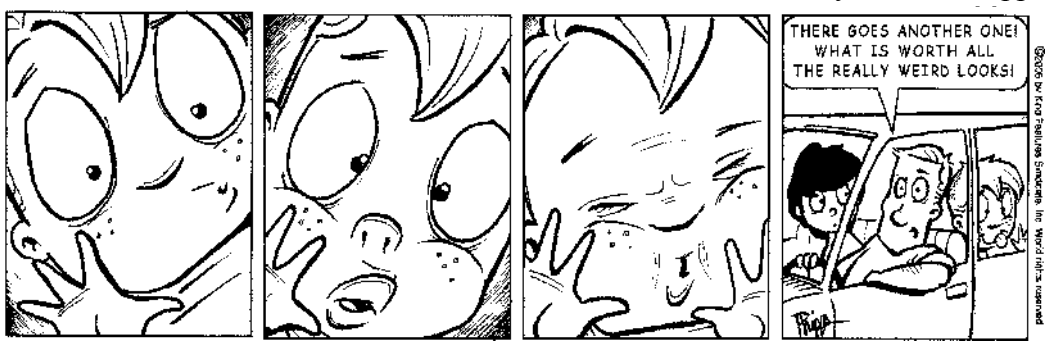
Saturday's Answers

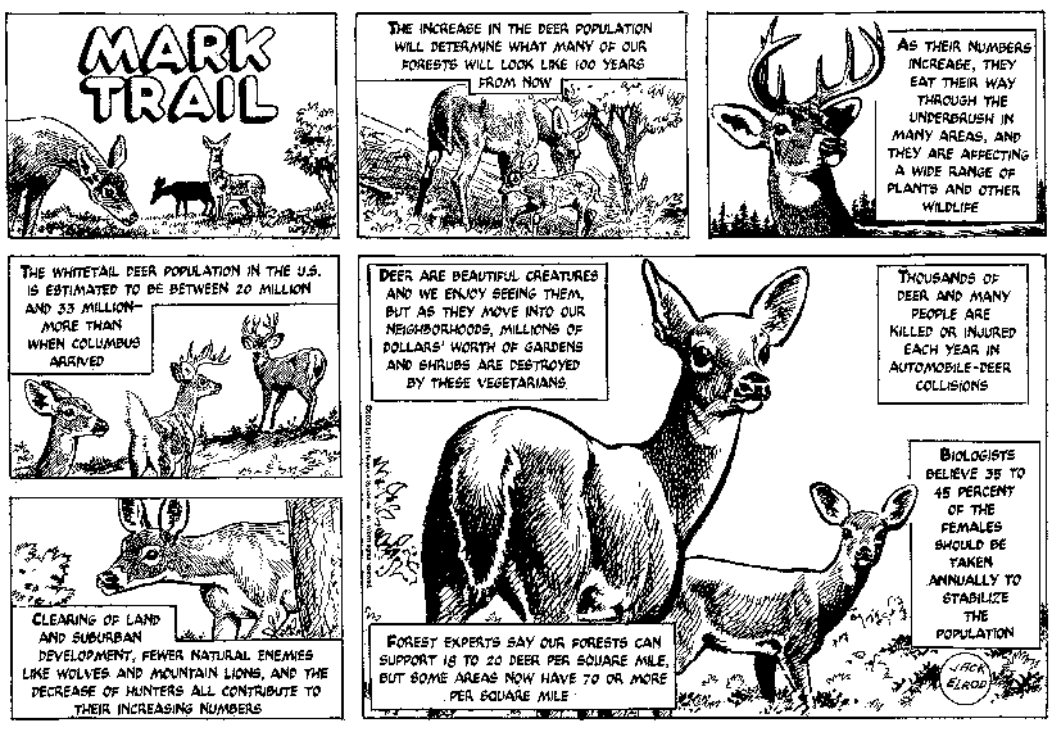


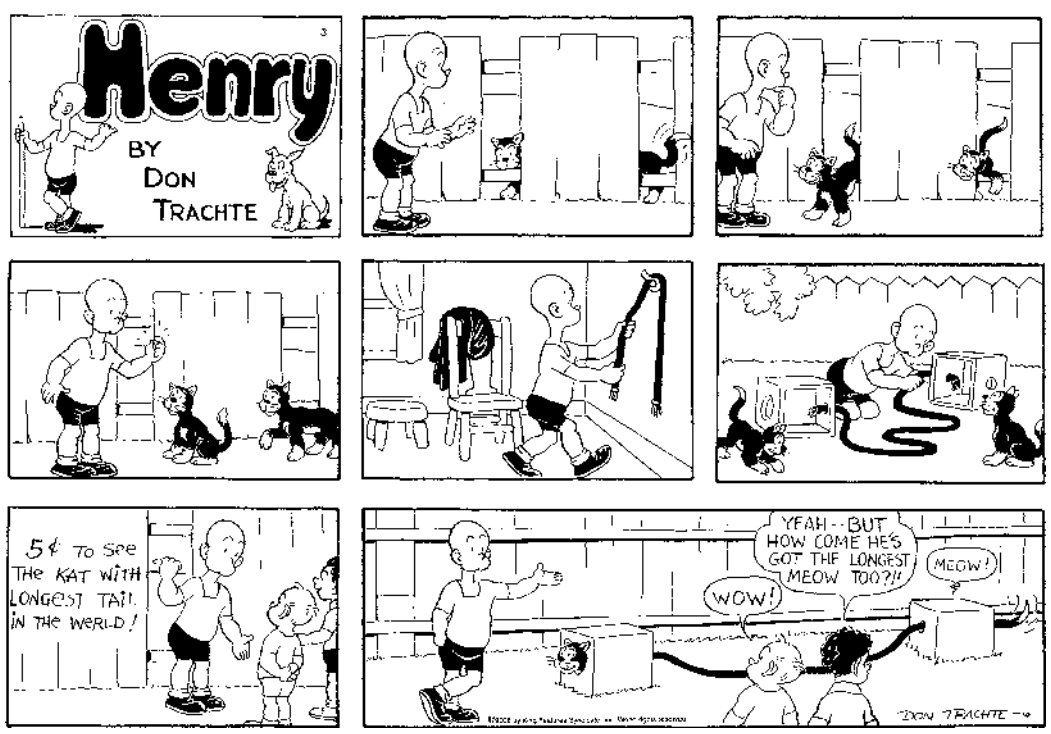

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
HAVE YA SEEN WIMPY AROUN'?
NOT SINCE HE WENT ON A DIET!
THERE HE GOES NOW!
HOW'S YER DIET GOIN'?
THE FIRST DAY WAS TOUGH!
WHY WUZ THAT?
ALL I HAD WAS CEREAL FOR BREAKFAST, GRAPEFRUIT FOR LUNCH!
NO BURGERS, NO SNACKS...
GOOD FER YOU, MATEY!
THE SECOND DAY WAS EVEN TOUGHER, BUT I STUCK WITH IT!
I'M PROUD OF YA!
BUT TODAY WAS A PIECE OF CAKE!
YA MEAN IT GOT EASIER?
NO, I MEAN I ATE THIS ENORMOUS PIECE OF CAKE!
IT WUZ A GOOD TRY!

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats by Jeff Pickering


MARK TRAIL
THE INCREASE IN THE DEER POPULATION WILL DETERMINE WHAT MANY OF OUR FORESTS WILL LOOK LIKE 100 YEARS FROM NOW
AS THEIR NUMBERS INCREASE, THEY EAT THEIR WAY THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH IN MANY AREAS, AND THEY ARE AFFECTING A WIDE RANGE OF PLANTS AND OTHER WILDLIFE
THE WHITETAIL DEER POPULATION IN THE U.S. IS ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 20 MILLION AND 33 MILLION— MORE THAN WHEN COLUMBUS ARRIVED
DEER ARE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES AND WE ENJOY SEEING THEM, BUT AS THEY MOVE INTO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS' WORTH OF GARDENS AND SHRUBS ARE DESTROYED BY THESE VEGETARIANS.
THOUSANDS OF DEER AND MANY PEOPLE ARE KILLED OR INJURED EACH YEAR IN AUTOMOBILE-DEER COLLISIONS
BIOLOGISTS BELIEVE 35 TO 45 PERCENT OF THE FEMALES SHOULD BE TAKEN ANNUALLY TO STABILIZE THE POPULATION
FOREST EXPERTS SAY OUR FORESTS CAN SUPPORT IS TO 20 DEER PER SQUARE MILE, BUT SOME AREAS NOW HAVE 70 OR MORE PER SQUARE MILE
CLEARING OF LAND AND SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT, FEWER NATURAL ENEMIES LIKE WOLVES AND MOUNTAIN LIONS, AND THE DECREASE OF HUNTERS ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR INCREASING NUMBERS
JACK ELROD


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
5¢ TO SEE THE KAT WITH LONGEST TAIL IN THE WERLD!
YEAH--BUT HOW COME HE'S GOT THE LONGEST MEOW TOO?!!
MEOW!
WOW!
DON TRACHTE

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Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAG
There is still hope for nonimm
all alien workers in the CNMI who are appealing to U.S. lawmakers to retain the provision in the federalization bills that would grant nonimmigrant status to long-term alien workers.
In her message, expected to be read during today's prayer vigil at the American Memorial Park's Amphitheater, Doromal urged alien workers to "stand strong" as she vowed to continue supporting them "until the fight is won."
See DOROMAL on Page 4
joins Micronesia su
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulation

235- NEWS

Red Sox rally from 7-0 deficit; stay alive

BOSTON (AP)—Down seven runs and running out of time, the Boston Red Sox weren't quite ready to go away. The defending World Series champions pulled off the biggest postseason comeback since 1929, beating the Rays 8-7 Thursday night on J.D. Drew's two-out single in the ninth to stave off elimination in the best-of-seven AL championship series.

Fresh off the latest October rally by the comeback kings, Boston headed to Tampa Bay trailing three games to two.

"The first six innings we did nothing. They had their way with us every way possible," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "And then this place came unglued, and we've seen that before. But because of the situation we're in, it just—that was pretty magical."

Boston trailed 7-0 with two outs in the seventh, then rallied when David Ortiz's three-run homer followed Dustin Pedroia's RBI single against Grant Balfour. Drew hit a two-run homer in the eighth, and Coco Crisp tied it with a two-out RBI single off Dan Wheeler.

"It was pretty much the most amazing thing I've ever been a part of," Crisp said, "to be down 7-0 in an elimination game and be able to come back.

Then in the ninth, Kevin Youkilis grounded to Evan Longoria with two outs, and wound up at second when the throw bounced in front of first baseman Carlos Pena. Jason Bay was intentionally walked and Drew lined a single to right off J.P. Howell over the outstretched glove of Gabe Gross to score the game-winner.

"There's a lot of fight in that dugout, and a lot of guys knew as soon as we got some runs on the board, we could get something going," Drew said.

The series resumes Saturday night at Tropicana Field. The winner faces Philadelphia in the World Series starting Wednesday night.

AP

Boston Red Sox's J.D. Drew hits the game winning RBI single against Tampa Bay Rays pitcher J.P. Howell in the ninth inning in Game 5 of the American League baseball championship series in Boston, Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

"Hopefully, there'll be time when we can sit back and think 'This is what got us over the hump,'" Francona said. "But we're still climbing."

B.J. Upton hit a two-run homer before the first out, and Carlos Pena and Evan Longoria hit back-to-back homers for the second straight game to help stake Tampa Bay to a 7-0 lead. Scott Kazmir held Boston to two hits over six innings, never allowing a runner past second base.

"There goes Papi and there goes Drew, I mean that can happen at any time," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "We're just going to have to go back home and get it going again. We played a great game. They just came back and beat us. That happens."

Tampa Bay doesn't have much time to shake off its late-inning collapse.

"If you dwell on something like that and you get your mind in a negative mode, nothing good is going to happen after that," Maddon said.

The seven-run deficit was the largest overcome in a postseason game since Game 4 of 1929 World Series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. In that one, the Philadelphia Athletics trailed by eight before a 10-run seventh inning powered them past the Chicago Cubs 10-8.

The Red Sox, who twice this decade have rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win the pennant and then the World Series title, have a chance to do it an unprecedented third time in five years.

After losing the previous two games at Fenway Park by a combined 22-5, Boston suddenly sparked to life.

The Red Sox fell behind the New York Yankees in the 2004 ALCS before becoming the first major league team to rally from a 3-0 postseason deficit. Once in the World Series, they swept the St. Louis Cardinals for their first title in 86 years.

Three seasons later, Boston trailed the Cleveland Indians 3-1 in the ALCS before winning three straight and sweeping Colorado in the Series for their second title in four seasons. Ortiz, who had one hit and no RBIs in the series coming in, woke up.

"The big guy came through for us again," Crisp said. "He was in a little slide, but he showed how he could come through for us."

Will rest make Phillies rusty?

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—They'll take batting practice, field grounders, shag flies and rest. Then, they'll do it again—and again.

The 15 years it took for the Philadelphia Phillies to return to the World Series won't seem nearly as long as the week they'll wait to play the first game.

Rest vs. rust? That's sure to be a key question by the time the NL champions face either the Tampa Bay Rays or Boston Red Sox in Game 1 of the World Series next Wednesday.

Tampa Bay leads the best-of-seven AL championship series 3-2, with Game 6 Saturday night at Tampa Bay.

The Phillies got some advantages by finishing off the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 5 Wednesday night for their first pennant since 1993.

They can rest their pitchers and set up the starting rotation. Surely, NLCS MVP Cole Hamels will take the mound for the Series opener on the road.

They have time to take care of personal matters. Manager Charlie Manuel went straight from Los Angeles to his native Virginia for the viewing and funeral of his mother. Center fielder Shane Victorino is mourning the death of his grandmother. Outfielder Geoff Jenkins and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed a baby boy before Game 5 against the Dodgers.

Of course, they also get a chance to heal some of those aches that come from playing 171 games. Everyone is banged-up at this point of the season.

But too much rest could be a problem, too. It can make the Phillies rusty if they aren't careful. Having six days off can stop momentum as easily as facing a lights-out pitcher in Game 1.

The Phillies went 13-3 down the stretch to clinch their second straight NL East title and are 7-2 in the postseason. They can't build on that 20-5 run when all they're doing is working out like it's spring training.

"It's concerning," Manuel said after his team clinched the sixth pennant in franchise history. "We'll definitely practice enough. We'll keep them sharp."

Recent history doesn't favor teams that sit around and wait to play in the World Series.

Last year, the streaking Colorado Rockies had a record eight-day layoff after sweeping Arizona in the NLCS and entering the World Series with an amazing run of 21 wins in 22 games. Boston only had two days off after rallying from a 3-1 deficit to beat Cleveland in the ALCS. The Red Sox then swept the Rockies for their second championship in four years.

In 2006, the Detroit Tigers had six days off after sweeping Oakland in the ALCS. St. Louis got one day off after beating the New York Mets in seven games for its first NL pennant in 24 years. The Cardinals easily handled the Tigers in five games, even though they had the worst regular-season record (83-78) of any Series champion in a non-shortened season.

The Tigers, who won 12 games more than St. Louis during the season, looked real rusty following the long layoff. Detroit pitchers set a Series record with five errors, two more than the previous high. The Tigers hit .199, the worst in a five-game Series since the 1983 Philadelphia Phillies.

General manager Pat Gillick hoped the Rays would finish off the Red Sox on Thursday night.

"I want them to have to sit around, too," he said.

The Phillies took the day off after flying back from the West Coast early Thursday morning following a night of partying at Dodger Stadium. They'll practice Friday and Saturday at Citizens Bank Park, but haven't made further plans.

Union says teams acted in concert against Bonds

NEW YORK (AP)—The baseball players' union says it has found evidence teams acted in concert against signing Barry Bonds but it reached an agreement with the commissioner's office to delay the filing of any grievance.

The union expressed concern in May about the lack of offers to the home run king. Filing a grievance would trigger proceedings before arbitrator Shyam Das.

Union general counsel Michael Weiner confirmed the deal with Major League Baseball, which was first reported by murraychass.com.

"There were numerous things that occurred that made me believe that the clubs were acting in concert," Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris, said Thursday. "When I testify as a witness in the case, I will delineate each and every one of them."

Bonds was indicted last Nov. 15 on charges related to 2003 grand jury testimony during which he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs. No team signed Bonds when he became a free agent after the 2007 season.

"We have the agreement about the timing of a potential grievance," Weiner said. "Our investigation revealed a violation of the Basic Agreement. It's a violation of the Basic Agreement related to Barry Bonds and free agency."

Weiner said the section that had been violated was Article XX (e) of the collective bargaining agreement, which states, in part: "Players shall not act in concert with other players and clubs shall not act in concert with other clubs." Weiner would not say how long the agreement runs to allow the union to file a grievance.

Baseball attorneys repeatedly have denied that teams acted in concert against Bonds. Management lawyer Dan Halem said Thursday that MLB would have no additional comment.

Bonds pleaded not guilty to 14 counts of making false declarations to a federal grand jury and one count of obstruction of justice, and his trial is scheduled to start March 2. Any grievance is likely to follow the trial.

Cowboys QB Romo may play Sunday with broken pinkie

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, who wants to play despite a broken pinkie on his throwing hand, practiced and threw passes to receivers Thursday. Coach Wade Phillips didn't rule out the possibility of Romo playing Sunday at St. Louis even though he said the quarterback was limited in practice Thursday and that Brad Johnson took most of the snaps.

"He threw the ball pretty well," Phillips said. "Just throwing the ball isn't all they do. ... There's some other factors that we'll see as we go along here. We still have a couple of more days."

Romo, with a protective splint on his heavily wrapped hand, threw lightly to all receivers during the early portion of practice that was open to reporters. Johnson, the 40-year-old backup whose last start was in 2006 for Minnesota, was working with the starters during drills.

Romo never handed off to running backs during the two-hour practice.

Phillips said he would probably know after practice Friday "what direction we want to go" as far as Romo playing. But he wasn't planning to make any announcement.

"I won't wait until Sunday (to decide)," Phillips said. "I'm not telling anybody."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and Phillips talked to each other while Romo threw on the opposite side of the field at the start of practice.

AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo throws during afternoon football practice at Valley Ranch Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008, in Irving, Texas.

Jones didn't talk to reporters at practice, but earlier Thursday at a news conference at the team's new stadium, was asked if Romo would play and responded, "It looks promising."

Romo was hurt on the first play of overtime in Sunday's 30-24 loss at Arizona. After the broken finger was diagnosed, Phillips said Romo was out and that Johnson would take over Sunday at St. Louis. It was thought then that Romo could be out up to a month.

But Romo, after getting a phone call from New York Jets quarterback Brett Favre, told coaches Wednesday he would like to play. Romo didn't practice then, but threw on the side, including some passes to Jones and tight end Jason Witten.

"Yeah, he threw me several balls, knocking them in there very good," Jones said.

Romo hasn't spoken in the locker room this week, and escaped quickly without answering questions the one time he was seen while reporters were present.

"He's been upbeat, he's been in meetings talking just like he was playing," Witten said before practice Thursday. "That's very encouraging because I'm sure he was devastated because he's never been hurt before. To see him out there throwing and trying to talk Wade into letting him play, that's encouraging for all of us."

Phillips said Romo doesn't have to go through a full practice to play.

Jones acknowledged that one of the concerns of Romo playing is the risk of making the injury worse.

"The wrong kind of lick on it might make it more severe," Jones said. "But they've developed a way to protect it so that he can throw. It's so interesting in how he's explaining to me he's found out he can put the emphasis with the little finger on the (ring) finger and do what the little finger does."

The Cowboys owner expected Romo to be "very persuasive" in trying to convince Phillips that he can play.

The injury occurred when Romo was sacked and fumbled to start overtime against the Cardinals. But Romo stayed in the game and badly missed on his next two pass attempts before the punt was blocked and recovered for the winning touchdown.

Romo grew up in Wisconsin, where Favre starred for the Green Bay Packers. Favre has started 258 consecutive games. Romo, already a two-time Pro Bowler, has been the Dallas starter 32 consecutive games since replacing ineffective Drew Bledsoe seven games into the 2006 season.

Witten, one of Romo's best friends, scoffed at the idea the quarterback is trying to come back to play as a way to emulate Favre.

"He's been through it a little bit now. ... I don't think he looks at it that way," Witten said. "He's mature enough and understands the challenges. He'll try to go if he can. If he can't, I think he's prepared to come back as quick as possible."

Zach Johnson on top again at PGA event in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Zach Johnson had another "boring" day on the course. Not that that's a bad thing for a player who relates boring to efficient.

Coming off an unexpected victory last week in the Texas Open, the 2007 Masters champion shot a 10-under 62 on Thursday for a share of the first-round lead with Marc Turnesa in the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

"All in all, it was pretty boring," Johnson said. "I feel boring golf is one where you hit the ball on the fairway, hit the ball on the green and give yourself a chance at a birdie. It was boring because I hit a lot of fairways. I missed one on seven just because I hit it too far. Then, I believe I missed a fairway on the 11th, and that was it. I picked my target, swung at it and dun, dun, dun, da, da."

After closing with weekend rounds of 62 and 64 in San Antonio, Johnson had 10 birdies on a sunny, windless day at TPC Summerlin. He opened with a 4-under 32 on the back nine, then birdied Nos. 1-5 and finished with another birdie on No. 9.

"The greens were in great shape," Johnson said. "The only things you really have to pay attention to is where the Stratosphere (tower) is and the roll of the fairway."

The 62s were a stroke off the course record set by Davis Love III in 2001.

Johnson's victory last week was his fourth on the PGA Tour.

"I think it's just the confidence," Johnson said. "Confidence in that my fundamentals are going in the right direction and confidence in my execution being good, especially down the stretch."

Turnesa also birdied the par-4 ninth to complete a bogey-free round.

"I'm just trying to make a lot of birdies because it's going to take a lot of them to win this tournament," said Turnesa, a PGA Tour rookie. "There's no defense without the wind. I came in with no expectations at all, and that's probably why I played well. This week will be all about putting and, obviously, I putted great today."

Michael Allen, Nick Watney, Matt Kuchar and Ken Duke opened with 63s, and Canadian Open winner Chez Reavie, Kevin Na, John Mallinger, Nick Flanagan shot 64s. U.S. Ryder Cup players Hunter Mahan and Chad Campbell, a former UNLV star, topped a group at 65.

The 49-year-old Allen also had a bogey-free round.

"I made some 10-footers and a few putts," Allen said. "I didn't make a ton of bombs or anything. Out here, you keep the ball in play and try and make sure you make pars at worst, and stay away from the few tricky shots. Then, the rest of the course, you just know you've got to make birdies, that's for sure.

"I saw the scoreboard when we were on 15 or 16 with 9 under. That's (Johnson's score of 62) pretty good after you come back from winning last week to come out here and put up 62. He's a great competitor."

Haywood could miss whole season after surgery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wizards starting center Brendan Haywood could miss the entire season while recovering from surgery Thursday to repair a torn ligament in his right wrist.

He had the operation in New York and will spend 2 1/2 months in a cast before starting rehabilitation. The team said Haywood will be out four to six months.

Washington's last regular-season game is six months away: April 15 against the defending NBA champion Boston Celtics.

Haywood was hurt Oct. 2 during training camp, and the Wizards wouldn't say until Thursday how long they expected him to be sidelined. He averaged career highs of 10.6 points and 7.2 rebounds in 2007-08, helping the Wizards reach the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

With Haywood out, the Wizards probably will rely on a mix of players in the middle, including veteran center Etan Thomas, fourth-year player Andray Blatche and first-round draft choice JaVale McGee.

Thomas split starting duties with Haywood in 2006-07, when they scuffled more than once away from the court. But Thomas missed all of last season after having open-heart surgery, and Haywood took over the job.

Haywood's is only one injury Washington will try to overcome this season. First and foremost, of course, is All-Star point guard Gilbert Arenas, who has had three knee operations in the past 1 1/2 years and has said he figures he will be out until December or January.

In addition, All-Star forward Antawn Jamison and guards Antonio Daniels, Nick Young and Juan Dixon sat out the Wizards' exhibition loss to the New Orleans Hornets in Berlin on Tuesday, although all four might be available when the teams play another preseason game Friday in Barcelona.

Jamison, who has a bruised knee, is expected to be ready for the regular season.

Ballesteros has complication after brain surgery

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Seve Ballesteros developed a complication following brain tumor surgery, requiring doctors to remove a piece of the golf star's skull to relieve pressure. The 51-year-old Spaniard was stable but still in intensive care, La Paz Hospital said Thursday.

Ballesteros

A sizable part of the tumor was taken out Tuesday, although it was not yet known if it was malignant. The hospital said Ballesteros had presented a "decreased level of consciousness by brain swelling."

Part of the skull was removed—a procedure known as decompressive craniotomy—to allow room for a swelling brain to expand. Doctors say it is not uncommon after such operations.

Ballesteros, who won three British Opens and two Masters, briefly lost consciousness and on Oct. 6 was admitted to the hospital, where the tumor was discovered. On Sunday, he said he faced the "hardest challenge of my life."

Top-ranked tennis player Rafael Nadal said he's been in contact with Ballesteros' family this week.

"He has proved to be a very strong man all his life," Nadal said at the Madrid Masters. "We know he is one of the great Spanish sportsmen. He was the best Spanish golfer ever so I just want to send him all my support and strength."

Ballesteros, who won a record 50 tournaments on the European Tour, retired last year because of a long history of back pain and has since concentrated on golf course design.

Ballesteros transformed European golf. After the Ryder Cup was expanded to include continental Europe in 1979, Ballesteros helped beat the United States in 1985 to begin two decades of dominance. He also captained Europe to victory in 1997 at Valderrama, Spain.

SGA October tourney this weekend

Saipan Golf Association will hold its October Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

According to tournament coordinator Larry Guerrero participants must check in at 8:25am to make the 9:25am tee-off time. Slots are available for 24 players and SGA said first players to show up early, will definitely be the first to roll the grounds.

Veteran golfers Mariano Fajardo and Joe Sablan, homerun menace Ned Norita, last year's annual champion Larry Deleon Guerrero, Carl Hocog, retired judge Edward Manibusan, former SGA president Nobert Sablan, club newcomer and activist Ron Hodges, and Art Deleon Guerrero have bragging rights for the first nine months of SGA's season as they secured the January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, and September Ace titles, respectively.

For more information about SGA's October Ace of the Month Tournament and rest of the club's competitions, call SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or tournament coordinator Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549. ***(SGA)***

Fil-Taga October Ace set this Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its October Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Marianas Golf and Country Club in Marpi.

According to tournament director Ted Malaran, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights. ***(Fil-Taga)***

Little League meeting today, fastpitch meeting Thursday

Saipan Little League Baseball president Mike Borja is calling on interested managers/coaches to attend an organizational meeting today at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The meeting is set for 10am with SLLB officials expected to discuss the 2009 season.

Borja said it is very important to start the league early next year to accommodate new teams joining SLLB.

The fastpitch softball league will open earlier than the SLLB and is asking interested teams to attend the final meeting on Thursday, Oct. 23, 6pm at the conference room of the Ada Gym.

CNMI Amateur Softball Association president Manny Tenorio said the schedule of games and other details about the opening of the league will be discussed at the meeting.

The fastpitch league is hoping to open shop early next month. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

AFC

From Page 26

tion, and after the game/training in the first practical sessions.

Warming up and cooling down are necessary to elevate body temperature, increase muscle temperature to improve performance, reduce muscle tightness, decrease risk of injury, rehearse game skills, raise arousal level, and familiarize with the environment.

Part of warming up drills is stretching which begins from general to specific muscle groups, from static to dynamic, and systemic. These drills will help prepare both the body and the mind for a training/match.

Caslib's course handout encouraged coaches to let their players warm up between 20 and 25 minutes to increase readiness and prevent fatigue.

The next five days of the practical sessions of the course involved the basics of the sport, such as dribbling, ball feeling and control, passing, shooting, defending, attacking, and goal keeping.

Participants were also taught about movements, from simple—like normal runs—to complex, which include agility runs, turning, jogging, and sprinting with or without a ball.

Club and school players were at the Oleai field to help participants in understanding the following drills/techniques.

While the practical sessions were held late afternoon at the Olea field, participants had after-school theoretical sessions at the NMIFA office.

After the course introduction on the first day of the seminar, Caslib discussed how to plan a coaching session, coaching method and learning process, age group training, and nutrition and hydration in the next days.

One day before the course concluded, participants and Caslib discussed the laws of the game.

The practical test on the final day had participants reviewing what they were taught in the first seven days and applying them in the game, as coaches/teacher performed the drills by themselves.

Caslib in an earlier interview with the *Saipan Tribune* said he is hoping that coaches who were taught the proper way of training players will share their knowledge to individuals interested to coach a team/club.

"It is through knowledgeable coaches that we will be able to teach players sound fundamentals of the game, and eventually develop highly competitive ones, particularly from the youth teams," Caslib said.

C&R

From Page 26

Sixers in the Rotary caging.

Estolas provided leadership and scoring support to Cruz, unloading 11 of his 17 points in the pivotal fourth quarter. Other C&R players that scored in double figures were J.R. Barrios (12 points), Melvin Capalad (11), and Errol Peredo (11).

Mendoza fired 23 points in a losing cause for Olivos/GEC, which also got 19 from forward Molly Cacho and 15 from Mercurio. Other double-digit scorers for the team were Ivan De Vero (10) and Mike Umali (10).

Both teams battled through a nip-and-tuck first quarter with C&R taking a 27-25 lead thanks to the nine points of bull-strong Capalad.

Olivos/GEC then trailed by a dozen at the half as Cruz, Barrios, and Badong Camacho tossed in seven points or more to stake C&R to a 55-43 lead.

Cruz continued to be in the forefront of the team's offensive in the third, as C&R took the aforementioned eight-point lead into the payoff period.

Inaugural PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League resumes today with Century Insurance taking on San Mig Lite in the 6:30pm first game and Diamond Auto Care squaring off against MIGS in the 8:30pm second game.

Sunday's matches, meanwhile, will pit Aon Insurance against Olivos starting at 5pm and C&R tackling Diamond Auto care beginning 7pm.

C&R Dist. 103 – Cruz 29, Estolas 17, Barrios 12, Peredo 11, Capalad 11, Camacho 8, Villacrusis 7, Artates 4, Gamboa 2, Villarin 1, Dayrit 1.

Olivos/GEC 96 – Mendoza 23, Cacho 19, Mercurio 15, De Vero 10, Umali 10, Montano 8, Arreza 4, Mendiola 4, Buenabajo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 27-25, 55-43, 77-69, 103-96.

Referees: Fyke Sabino and Benjie Abadilla.

JAPANESE

From Page 26

yearly wakeboarding tilt, which like 2007 will be held in the waters off the Susupe Beach Park.

The 6th Annual Chagi Cup starts with reception and an opening ceremony at 8am and immediately followed by the event's team competition.

Deleon Guerrero, who also doubles as organizer of the event, said a total of five teams will duke it out in the one-day wakeboarding event.

Action resumes after lunch with the much-awaited demonstration of wakeboarding tricks by pros Hatakeyama and Fujimoto.

The demonstration will be followed by the individual competition, which will have four divisions—Beginners Class, Intermediate Class, Expert Class, and Pro Class.

The tournament will draw to a close with the awarding ceremony at around 4pm where winners of the team and individual competitions will be honored.

Last year, Deleon Guerrero's Boku-Chan beat Hatakeyama's Team Hatake in the finals. Other teams that took part in the 5th Chagi Cup were Sky-Mo, Flyers, and Team B.

In the individual competition, Boku-chan's Otsuka Sadayuki won the MVP, Sky-Mo's Kotani Hirumi performed the highest jump, while Fly-ers' Westphal, Onuma Kenji, and Mieko Kobayashi figured in the hardest crash.

Boku-chan's Tanaka Syuichi, meanwhile, wore the best costume and Team Hatake's Adachi Takafumi went home with the JK prize.

OBP

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roundtrip ticket from any destination in Southeast Asia courtesy of Asian Airlines, and a motorcycle from Joeten Motors.

There are also guaranteed cash prizes for the Top 3 finishers for the Championship Flight, Flight A, B, and C. The champion in each flight will earn $300, $200 for second, and $100 for third. Winners in the said flights will be decided by gross scores, while the Senior and Ladies flights will have a double-peoria format with the golfer to register the lowest net score winning the title.

A banquet will be held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort after the tournament with organizers raffling off two LG 20" LCD televisions, cellular phones, night stays certificates from various hotels, brunch certificates, and a 2009 Tournament of Champions entry valued at $200.

Golfers are encouraged to participate in today's tournament, as proceeds from the inaugural golfest will be used to help the Commonwealth Health Center purchase a CT scan machine and hyperbaric chamber.

Registration will begin at 6am, while a shotgun start will take place at 7pm. Entrance fee is $100.

OBP, a non-profit organization aiming to raise funds for the promotion of health services in the Commonwealth, would like to thank the following for supporting the tournament: Tan Holdings Corp., DFS Saipan Ltd., PTI, Saipan Shipping Company, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., MITA Travel, Western Union, Wushin Corporation, Ambyth Shipping, Take Care Insurance, Horizon's Lines, I-Connect, Matson Navigation, Pacsport/Seabridge, Seafix Inc., Triple B Forwarders, Kyowa, Bridge Capital LLC, Coca Cola Beverage Co., Dial Rent-to-Own, Mar Pacific Distributors, Pacific Islands Club, Palms Resort Saipan, Café at the Park, Luen Fong, Revolving Restaurant 360 Inc., Saipan Stevedore Company Inc., Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc., Triple J Motors, Troung's Restaurant, Construction Material & Supplies, Micronesian Brokers, Unity Trade, Sherman Williams/Safety First, Paradise Island Chiropractic, Century Hotel, D&Q Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Pacific Trading Company, Saipan Grand Hotel, Hertz Rent-A-Car, Gold's Gym, Cars Unlimited, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Hollywood Theaters, Price Costco, KCNM, and Micronesian Brokers.

For more information, contact Alex Sablan at saiship@pticom.com or via email at obpcnmi@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN SCORES

LAS VEGAS (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, a $4.1 million (3 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event on 7,243-yard, par-72 TPC Summerlin:

FIRST ROUND

Zach Johnson	30-32	62
Marc Turnesa	31-31	62
Michael Allen	32-31	63
Nick Watney	33-30	63
Matt Kuchar	30-33	63
Ken Duke	33-30	63
Kevin Na	33-31	64
John Mallinger	33-31	64
Nick Flanagan	33-31	64
Chez Reavie	32-32	64
Charles Warren	33-32	65
Robert Garrigus	30-35	65
Joe Durant	34-31	65
Chad Campbell	32-33	65
Will MacKenzie	33-32	65
Frank Lickliter II	35-30	65
Hunter Mahan	32-33	65
Brian Davis	33-32	65
Chris Stroud	31-34	65
Pat Perez	32-34	66
Matt Jones	33-33	66
Bob Estes	35-31	66
Peter Lonard	33-33	66
Joe Ogilvie	32-34	66
Kenneth Ferrie	32-34	66
Chad Collins	31-35	66
Rich Beem	34-32	66
John Riegger	36-30	66
Ryan Moore	33-33	66
George McNeill	36-31	67
Charles Howell III	33-34	67
Ryuji Imada	35-32	67
Charley Hoffman	32-35	67
Bo Van Pelt	34-33	67
Brad Adamonis	34-33	67
Y.E. Yang	32-35	67
John Merrick	33-34	67
Woody Austin	34-33	67
Parker McLachlin	34-33	67
Martin Laird	32-35	67
Mike Ruiz	35-32	67
Todd Demsey	34-33	67
Omar Uresti	33-35	68
Brett Quigley	35-33	68
Fred Couples	37-31	68
Mathew Goggin	34-34	68
Patrick Sheehan	34-34	68
Kyle Thompson	33-35	68
Jason Gore	36-32	68
Bill Haas	30-38	68
Kevin Streelman	34-34	68
Eric Axley	35-33	68
Davis Love III	34-34	68
Steve Lowery	35-33	68
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-34	68
Nicholas Thompson	33-35	68
Scott McCarron	31-37	68
Kent Jones	36-33	69
Mark Hensby	33-36	69
John Rollins	32-37	69
Mike Weir	35-34	69
Chris DiMarco	33-36	69
Tom Scherrer	35-34	69
Shane Bertsch	35-34	69
Mathias Gronberg	37-32	69
Paul Claxton	34-35	69
Charlie Wi	34-35	69
Paul Azinger	34-35	69
Jeff Quinney	38-31	69
Kevin Sutherland	35-34	69
Rod Pampling	34-35	69
David Duval	35-34	69
Jason Allred	33-36	69
Daniel Chopra	33-36	69
Rory Sabbatini	35-34	69
Dean Wilson	34-35	69
Vaughn Taylor	33-36	69
Jesper Parnevik	35-34	69
Ben Crane	33-36	69
Jeff Overton	36-33	69
Richard Johnson	37-32	69
Scott Sterling	35-34	69
Jeff Maggert	34-36	70
Mark Wilson	38-32	70
Troy Matteson	37-33	70
Brian Gay	34-36	70
Steve Flesch	33-37	70
Casey Bourque	33-37	70
Kevin Stadler	36-34	70
Chris Riley	34-36	70
Tag Ridings	36-34	70
Jason Day	35-35	70
Jay Williamson	34-37	71
Brad Elder	36-35	71
Steve Marino	35-36	71
Jerry Kelly	36-35	71
Carlos Franco	37-34	71
Nathan Green	35-36	71
Alejandro Canizares	30-41	71
Ben Fox	35-36	71
James Driscoll	36-35	71
Brenden Pappas	35-36	71
Tommy Armour III	35-36	71
Rocco Mediate	34-37	71
John Huston	34-37	71
Jimmy Walker	33-38	71
Jon Mills	35-36	71
Tim Wilkinson	37-35	72
Paul Goydos	36-36	72
Tim Herron	37-35	72
Bob Sowards	34-38	72
Jim McGovern	38-34	72
Stephen Ames	36-36	72
Cameron Beckman	35-37	72
Brett Rumford	38-34	72
Justin Bolli	35-37	72
Ryan Armour	34-39	73
John Daly	36-37	73
Jonathan Byrd	38-35	73
Arron Oberholser	36-37	73
Michael Letzig	34-39	73
Cody Freeman	36-37	73
Greg Kraft	35-38	73
Todd Hamilton	38-35	73
J.J. Henry	37-36	73
Tim Petrovic	36-38	74
Grant Waite	35-39	74
Jin Park	37-37	74
David Lutterus	36-39	75
Steve Elkington	35-40	75
Billy Mayfair	36-39	75
Kirk Triplett	35-42	77

Cowboys QB Romo may play Sunday with broken pinkie

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, who wants to play despite a broken pinkie on his throwing hand, practiced and threw passes to receivers Thursday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Red Sox rally from 7-0 deficit; stay alive

Down seven runs and running out of time, the Boston Red Sox weren't quite ready to go away.

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AFC coaching course concludes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Asian Football Confederation's Introductory Coaching Course on Saipan concluded Thursday after school teachers/club coaches spent eight days of practical and theoretical sessions with AFC instructor Jose Ariston Padre Caslib.

The last session was a practical test at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with Caslib asking participants to perform drills and grading them. Around 20 teachers/coaches attended the practical session and the last day of the course concluded with the awarding of certificates at the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Caslib, a veteran national coach from the Philippines, started the eight-day course with a discussion about the roles of coaches. He emphasized the need for coaches to have a planned and systematic program designed to prepare an individual/team for improved and competitive performances.

The more than 20 participants then went to the Oleai field later in the afternoon for the first practical session of the course.

Caslib enumerated the importance of warming and cooling down before the game/training, during half time, before substitu-

See AFC on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Patty Coleman and Lindsay Davis perform offensive and defensive drills, while Jose Ariston Padre Caslib looks on during the last practical session of AFC's Introductory Coaching Course on Saipan Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

C&R beats Olivos/GEC in debut

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Powerhouse C&R Distributors held off a late rally by Olivos/GEC to win its debut in the Inaugural PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Thursday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

Despite controlling the match from the get-go, the Marvin Deocares-coached squad had to endure nerve-wracking moments in the final five minutes before pulling out a 103-96 win.

Sparked by the outside sniping of Bernard Montano and inside forays by Edmark Mendoza and Glenn Mercurio, Olivos/GEC trimmed their 69-77 deficit entering the fourth quarter to a mere deuce with about four minutes to go in the ballgame.

But rather than panic, C&R displayed some endgame poise with veteran guard Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. teaming with youthful high-riser Jericho Cruz in delivering the critical blows to preserve the victory.

With Olivos/GEC threatening at 80-78 following a fastbreak bucket by Mendoza, Estolas casually dribbled the ball down to their frontcourt before accelerating and dropping an acrobatic scoop shot against three defenders that gave C&R a four-point lead.

After a botched Olivos/GEC offensive on the other end, Estolas this time played the role of setup man and lobbed an alley-oop pass to a streaking Cruz to peg the count at 84-78.

But C&R was not out of the woods yet, as Olivos/GEC dropped an 8-2 run in a span of a minute to tie the score at 86-all.

That would be the team's last hurrah, however, as C&R tightened the screws on defense and Estolas and Cruz continued their two-man demolition job to give C&R a victory in its debut.

Despite missing the first quarter, Cruz still went on to lead C&R with 29 points. The top scorer of the recently concluded FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam actually did double duty that night as he played for the CNMI Junior Nationals in their pennant-clinching win against

See C&R on Page 27

MARK RABAGO

C&R Distributors point guard Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. challenges the defense of Olivos/GEC players Edmark Mendoza and Bernard Montano in their game in the Inaugural PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Thursday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

Japanese wakeboarders here again for Chagi Cup

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Japanese professional wakeboarders Hatakeyama Yoshiyuki and Fujimoto Makoto will make a return engagement to Saipan for this Sunday's 6th Annual Chagi Cup.

The Gator Board Pro Riders of the Japan Wakeboard Association also took part in last year's event with Hatakeyama's team finishing second and Fujimoto's settling for the consolation prize.

Dan Westphal and Kumiko Deleon Guerrero will be representing Saipan in the

See JAPANESE on Page 27

The 6th Annual Chagi Cup will be held this Sunday in the waters off the Susupe Beach Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OBP golf tourney offers more than $40K in prizes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Organizers of the Off the Beaten Path Golf Tournament that will be held today at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort are making sure the inaugural event will be a big one offering more than $40,000 in prizes.

The total pot includes a $15,000 cash from Shell Marianas for hole-in-one winner. Golfers who will drill hole-in-one shots on selected holes can also take home a Mazda SE Truck from Triple J Motors, a

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